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News

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National Library Service
for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

January-February 1980

Clovernook director of printing retires; successor named

Martin Droege, who worked closely with the Library of Congress in production of braille books and magazines, has retired. Mr. Droege was the Director of printing and other workshop activities at the Clovernook Home and School for the Blind in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"He was very cost conscious and receptive to our projects," says Mary Jack Wintle, NLS Assistant Director, who coordinated with Mr. Droege for nearly fifteen years. "When others said it couldn't be done, he pitched in and did it."

At Clovernook, Mr. Droege was responsible for an increase in braille production from approximately six million to about sixty million pages per year. The number of employees rose from twenty part-time to sixty full-time handicapped workers.

One of Mr. Droege's first tasks after coming to Clovernook in 1962 was to modernize the printing workshop through development of new automated equipment. He also created a semi-automatic stereotyping machine.

In 1974 Mr. Droege undertook an ambitious NLS-sponsored project—the study and development of a computerized braille translation system, which has increased production many fold since installation in 1978. "That was a time we really appreciated his cooperation and initiative," remembers Ms. Wintle. "He responded positively to a difficult request."

Currently more than forty periodicals a year are embossed in braille at Clovernook. They include popular magazines for NLS readers, this and other NLS newsletters, and many NLS periodicals and catalogs.

A native of Krefeld, Germany, Mr. Droege immigrated to this country in 1958. He holds degrees in mechanical engineering and business administration.

Mr. Droege has moved to Florida where he plans to continue working as a special consultant for a company interested in braille production.

Sears to succeed Droege

Succeeding Mr. Droege is Michael Sears, Director of Rehabilitation at Clovernook

At a recent meeting at NLS, Director Frank Kurt Cylke (left) welcomes new Clovernook Director of Printing Michael Sears (center) and thanks outgoing Director Martin Droege (right) for his cooperation in braille production.

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for five years. He has extensive training and experience in rehabilitation counseling in urban and rural settings, and he has worked with children and adults in state and private institutions. He also has experience in business and finance and expresses a personal interest in engineering.

Network Exchange

This column is a forum for exchange of information between libraries. Please send requests for information or news about your library to Network Exchange, Publication Services, NLS, Washington, D.C. 20542.

Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Regionals have received an LSCA grant for a joint project to strengthen their services to institutions. Celia Brockenbourgh has been hired for one year to develop information and workshops to inform staff in nursing homes, hospitals, schools, and other institutions about the talking-book program. Libraries that have not yet received a copy of their newly developed information packet may request one from Celia at the Philadelphia Regional.

Connecticut. A radio reading service has been started in this state. Although not sponsored by the Hartford Regional, the service has received encouragement and planning assistance from the library.

Nebraska. Rodeane Green would like copies of policies and procedures in use at other regionals pertaining to on-demand recording of materials.

Maryland. The regional library in Baltimore has recently published a comprehensive five-year plan. Other libraries may request a copy from Librarian James Murray. Please specify print, braille, or recorded format.

District of Columbia. The D.C. Regional sponsored several successful programs last fall, which were well attended. An orientation program was conducted for special education teachers. In addition, to celebrate the first anniversary of Washington Volunteer Readers for the Blind, a dinner was held, which was attended by volunteer narrators and patrons. WVRB records materials requested by patrons.

South Carolina. James Johnson, former Regional Librarian, has been promoted to Assistant State Librarian. Stephen Prine, Director of the Multistate Center for the South, will replace Mr. Johnson as regional librarian.

Alabama. Public Relations Consultant Patricia Warner, who has worked closely with the Alabama Regional, has won three awards, reports Miriam Pace, Regional Librarian. Presented by the Alabama Association of Business Communicators, the awards were for a state-wide summer reading program in braille, a newsletter, and for the library's color brochure, which was named Publication of the Year.

NLS. Several network libraries and NLS would like information from libraries that have had positive results with deposit collections. Please send information to NLS Network Consultant Margaret Bush. Anyone interested in receiving the results should contact Ms. Bush.

Author comes to NLS

Allen Weinstein, author of *Perjury*, a book on the Hiss-Chambers' Communist spy case, read the introduction to the Vintage paperback edition of his book in the NLS recording studio on Friday, December 14.

In his introduction, Mr. Weinstein discusses the civil liberties issues arising from the spy trials. The author began his research believing Hiss's innocence, but by the end of his study Mr. Weinstein felt Hiss had perjured himself.

Currently a professor of history at Smith and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Mr. Weinstein is preparing a new book on internal

Author Allen Weinstein narrates introduction of his book Perjury.

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security, *The Haunted Wood: The Pursuit of Subversion in Modern America*, which covers World War I through the late fifties.

Prior to becoming a Wilson Fellow, Mr. Weinstein ran the Project on Access and Privacy, sponsored by the Twentieth Century Fund, which works primarily on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) issues. His work with the Project grew out of an earlier book, *The Assault on Secrecy: The Freedom of Information Act and the Intelligence Agencies*, as well as his involvement with FOIA suits.

Mr. Weinstein lives in Washington with his wife, an attorney, and their two children.

Library acquires new aid for handicapped readers

A Kurzweil Reading Machine, which translates print into synthesized speech, has been installed at the Library of Congress. This acquisition makes thousands of English-language books in the Library's collections available to visually handicapped readers. At a ceremony marking installation of the Kurzweil, Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin remarked on the Library's continuing commitment to providing handicapped readers with top quality library service.

The Kurzweil electronically scans print material placed face down on a glass plate and feeds the images into a minicomputer that recognizes each letter, groups the letters into words, computes pronunciation and stress, and produces synthetic speech. Controls on the machine enable the trained user to speed up or slow down the reading rate, have previous lines repeated, spell out obscure words, or mark certain words or phrases for later reference.

Under a contract with NLS, Kurzweil Computer Products, Inc., has developed an adaptation of the machine that will produce braille. This machine is now being tested by NLS specialists.

During an experimental period beginning January 14, readers who are trained may make appointments to use the Kurzweil, located in the Thomas Jefferson Reading Room. Reservations will be accepted for four-hour periods between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Readers may have more than one four-hour block of time if no reservations have been made for subsequent periods. These times are subject to change based on the results of a reader survey to be conducted during the experimental period.

Librarian Daniel J. Boorstin (left) explains importance of Kurzweil to the Library's visually handicapped patrons; and Lloyd Rasmussen (seated), NLS technical specialist, demonstrates equipment. Ellen Hahn (right) will exercise administrative control over equipment.

So that the machine can remain free for research projects as much as possible, training in its use, which takes from eight to ten hours, must be secured separately. Should demand warrant, certain periods during the week may be set aside for self-instruction with manuals available in print, braille, and recorded forms. Materials for home study are available on request.

A general article in the January 1980 *Wilson Library Bulletin* entitled "Special Report: The Kurzweil Reading Machine" provides additional information. The article was written by Ruth-Carol Cushman, a reference librarian at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Intensive braille study underway

NLS has awarded a contract to Exotech Research and Analysis, Inc., of Gaithersburg, Maryland, to study and establish alternatives to current braille production systems.

Recommendations will incorporate the most effective techniques for paper-braille production, computer-braille translation, and new tactile displays.

Exotech's study is part of a comprehensive, multifaceted analysis of braille production. Other analyses include: field testing to determine acceptability of cassette-braille machines, development of a more computer-oriented braille code, and determination of the role of volunteers in braille-book production.

As part of the planning for award and administration of the Exotech contract, a tentative, informal study of operational costs of a major NLS producer was conducted. The costs for a typical computer-assisted braille book break down as follows: 20.8% for translation labor; 9.3% for printing and binding; 22.3% for materials; 31.1% for overhead; and 16.5% for labeling, shipping, and fees. The typical book requires thirty-seven hours of inputting at $3.25 per hour and four hours of computer time at $5.00 per hour. Proofreading and editing require an additional seventy hours per book.

Formal, in-depth analyses of all major NLS braille producers including Clovernook, American Printing House for the Blind, Volunteer Services for the Blind, and National Braille Press, will be conducted.

For more information on the project, contact Bruce Miller, Head, Processing Section, NLS.

Assistant head appointed in Publication Services

Krandall Kraus joined the NLS staff January 8 as Assistant Head, Publication Services. Mr. Kraus supervises the editorial, design, production, and distribution activities of the professional staff.

Most recently Mr. Kraus directed the advertising staff of a Washington, D.C. public relations consulting firm. For nearly three years he was Director of Program Design and Development for an international firm. Mr. Kraus worked in the Office of the Vice President on programs for Vietnamese refugees and represented Vice President Rockefeller in the National Republic of China in connection with U.S.-China cultural and educational exchange programs.

Krandall Kraus, new Assistant Head, Publication Services.

ALA standards published

Copies of the *Standards of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped* are now available from the American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Copies cost $4.50 each. Cooperating libraries have already been mailed a free copy by NLS.

NLS will add these standards to its regular collections in cassette, braille, and flexible disc formats.

NLS plans to work closely with network libraries to monitor and encourage implementation of the standards. Questions about them should be directed to Mary Berghaus Levering, Assistant Chief for Network Development.

Midlands trying automated system

The Multistate Center for the Midlands recently finished testing the NLS prototype circulation system on the Tymshare computer network. The system was developed to facilitate circulation by multistate centers of the limited copies available of hand-copied braille books. It will enable NLS to monitor this activity and to provide extra titles in heavy demand.

Designed to store information about circulation, the system has a variety of other applications. It houses information about requests, records charge-out of books and deletes the request, discharges books on their return, simultaneously passes the old transaction to a history file, and displays a list of others waiting for the title. Several other types of lists, including overdues, can be produced on request. A draft user's manual is now being developed for distribution to interested libraries.

This system has advantages and disadvantages. One advantage over manual systems is that books are retrievable by book number, by date, and by patron, while manual systems usually allow for retrieval only through one element. Another advantage is an improved and efficient means of recordkeeping. A disadvantage of the system is the expense. The cost for reserving a single title is about $.50. Charging out a book and associated tasks costs about $1.00 each. Discharge of a returned book runs about $1.50.

NLS Technical Specialist Lloyd Rasmussen (center) demonstrates Kurzweil for Amy Carter and friends at White House Conference on Library and Information Services held in Washington November 15-19. Other NLS personnel were on hand at the meeting to provide on-demand braille and recording services for delegates. Interested conference attendants also had a one-day orientation of NLS facilities.

Talking computer terminal tested at NLS

Another innovation has been introduced to aid blind individuals—the talking computer terminal. Sold commercially by Radio Shack, the computer components include the computer, expansion interface, serial interface board, telephone interface, and vocalizer. The equipment costs less than $2,000 total.

Automated Systems Coordinator Allen Deschere demonstrates use of talking computer to NLS Volunteer Coordinator Freddie Peaco.

Peter Maggs, a law professor at the University of Illinois, provided a cassette tape with a program. When read into the computer, the program causes the computer to act as a terminal, to vocalize characters typed in, and to read the computer's reply. The telephone interface can hook up with any commercially available computer program.

As queries or commands are typed into the terminal and entered, the responses are displayed on the screen as with most CRT terminals. Shortly after the computer's message begins, the vocalizer starts reading it. It pronounces all groups of letters it considers pronounceable, spells out others, and reads some punctuation and numbers digit by digit.

Some users feel the voice output is monotonous and without inflection. Although it is acceptable for simple recitation, it may be helpful to redesign the output format of some databases to provide a compromise between the most efficient visual response and the most intelligible vocal response. Failing that, two different output programs may be designed for use with the same database.

Professor Maggs is assisting NLS in developing this system for use internally and by network libraries. Experiments are planned to explore the computer's potential for giving blind persons access to computers, especially with local book-circulation systems.

International briefs

England. The Royal National Institute for the Blind plans to purchase GEC 4070 computer equipment as part of a major expansion and modernization program to put RNIB's braille production among the most advanced in the world. The equipment, to be used in RNIB's new printing center, will speed publication of a greatly increased range of braille books and periodicals for educational, vocational, and recreational reading. The new GEC equipment will replace an existing system that uses punched cards as the text input medium.

WCWB. The Sixth World Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, held in Antwerp, Belgium, in August 1979, unanimously elected Dorina de Gouvêa Nowill of Brazil as president for a five-year term 1979-1984. Officer of the WCWB for many years, Mrs. Nowill specializes in teaching blind people and was trained at the Caetano de Campos Institute of Education in Sao Paulo and at Columbia University, New York.

The *Review of the European Blind,* a quadrilingual quarterly, published by WCWB European Regional Committee now appears in braille and on tape. The English braille edition is available from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, and the English tape edition from Norges Blindeforbund, Berggliensgt. 13, Oslo 3, Norway. Both are free.

Mali. To commemorate the International Year of the Child, money donated by schools in Northern Ireland and England has been sent to the Mali Association for the Welfare of the Blind in Bamako to help buy braille paper for their school. An additional sum of $1,332 was also collected by Achille Dyckmans of Belgium to supply school books in braille for the Institute of Young Blind in Bamako, Mali.

WHO. The World Health Organization reports that 28 to 42 million people in the world are blind. The exact figure depends on the criteria used to define blindness. A data bank has been developed to collect information on the prevalence of blindness around the world. At their first meeting, the WHO Programme Advisory Group on the Prevention of Blindness, recommended that the available information be given wide circulation and that the data on blindness be improved so remedial action can be more effectively organized.

Register of Research. The third edition of the International Register of Research on Blindness and Visual Impairment has been compiled by Warwick Research Unit for the Blind in collaboration with the American Foundation for the Blind. Three sections list: (1) projects on nonmedical research and innovative practice for the blind and visually impaired; (2) main organizations in each country for blind and visually handicapped individuals; and (3) sources of information including periodicals, abstract journals, information services, and reference works. Print copies of the Register are available for five pounds each from Warwick Research Unit for the Blind, University of Warwick, Coventry, England.

Saudi Arabia. As its contribution to the International Year of the Child, the Society of the National Library of the Blind organized the first Arabic braille reading contest, which took place in East Jerusalem last April. The event's purpose was to encourage reading among blind youngsters. All schools for the blind in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and blind individuals studying in traditional secondary schools participated enthusiastically. In response to many requests, the Society hopes to run the contests annually.

Denmark. The library of the Blind in Denmark Association, founded in 1883, loans more than 8,000 nonfiction and fiction books and special textbooks for blind students reports *Public Libraries in Denmark.* Braille periodicals are also provided. Blind and temporarily handicapped people may also borrow from more than 2,100 tapes that are either sent to the borrower or deposited in batches of 100 or more in hospital libraries nationwide. Fourteen periodicals on tape are also available.

Japan. Founded in 1940, the Japan Braille Library currently consists of three divisions—braille books, talking books, and aids and appliances. The braille division loans more than 95,000 volumes to more than 7,000 registered readers; and the talking-book division loans more than 130,000 reels and cassettes of books and seven magazines to about 9,000 readers. The supplies division consists of aids and appliances such as braille-writing and tape-recording equipment.

Exhibit Schedule 1980

Date	Organization and Place	Audience
January 9-13	**American Optometric Student Association** Memphis, Tennessee	Optometric students throughout the country who belong to student organizations of AOA representing optometry schools nationwide.
March 17-21	**Music Teachers National Association** Washington, D.C.	Private music teachers in schools and independent studios.
March 19-23	**American Medical Student Association** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Large group of medical students.
April 9-12	**Music Educators National Conference** Miami Beach, Florida	Music educators of students who may require special services.
April 14-18	**American Occupational Therapy Association** Denver, Colorado	Practicing, teaching, and student occupational therapists who have direct contact with potential program users.
April 19-23	**National Council on the Aging** Washington, D.C.	Members work with and through other organizations to develop concern for older people.
April 20-25	**Council for Exceptional Children** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Teachers and administrators of other-than-average children: gifted; retarded; visually, auditorily, or physically handicapped.
April 30-May 2	**President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped** Washington, D.C.	Meeting of professionals who work with handicapped persons nationwide as well as with users and potential users.
May 5-9	**International Reading Association** St. Louis, Missouri	Teachers or supervisors of reading using print and nonprint materials.
June 8-13	**American Nurses' Association** Houston, Texas	Organization of nurses.
June 23-28	**Helen Keller Centennial Congress** Boston, Massachusetts	Sponsored by AFB and the Affiliated Leadership League of and for the Blind of America.
June 25-July 2	**American Optometric Association** Denver, Colorado	Practicing optometrists.
June 28-July 2	**American Library Association** New York, New York	Organization of librarians that promotes libraries and librarianship and delivery of user-oriented library information services.
June 29-July 4	**National Federation of the Blind** Minneapolis, Minnesota	The largest single membership group for blind people.
July 13-19	**American Council of the Blind** Louisville, Kentucky	Major group primarily of program users.

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July 27-31 or August 3-7 (tentative)	**National Association of the Physically Handicapped** Akron, Ohio	Organization that promotes social, economic, and physical welfare of physically handicapped individuals.
August 5-9 (tentative)	**Blinded Veterans' Association** New Haven or Hartford, Connecticut	Organization that helps blind veterans re-establish themselves as active, productive citizens.
August 25-29	**National Rehabilitation Association** Louisville, Kentucky	Leaders and professionals working in rehabilitation, service providers, and handicapped members of organizations trying to improve the status of handicapped individuals.
October 6-9	**American Academy of Family Physicians** New Orleans, Louisiana	Family physicians whose members come in direct contact with potential NLS users.
October (dates not set)	**Nurse Educator** San Francisco, California	Nursing school faculty and directors of in-service education.
October 13-16	**American Health Care Association** Atlanta, Georgia	Nursing home administrators.
November 2-6	**Association of Military Surgeons of the United States** Washington, D.C.	Employees of federal medical agencies including the medical departments of the military, HEW, and Veterans Administration.
November 9-14	**American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine** Washington, D.C.	Physicians and allied health professionals who work with physically handicapped individuals.
November 14-17	**American Academy of Ophthalmology** New Orleans, Louisiana	Physicians specializing in treatment of the eyes.

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DEPOSITORY 376

Hadley School names new president

Frank S. Penland has been named President of The Hadley School for the Blind, the world's only home-study school specializing in braille and recorded courses for the visually handicapped. Mr. Penland's appointment becomes effective April 16, 1980, according to Arthur Dole III, chairman of the board of trustees of the school.

Mr. Penland comes to Hadley from the Virginia State Commission for the Visually Handicapped, where he served as Director of Education Services. Prior to that he was a principal in the Chesterfield County School District in Virginia.

Mr. Penland was appointed by Virginia Governor Mills Godwin to serve an eight-year term as a member of the Governor's Over-all Advisory Council of the Needs of the Handicapped Children and Adults. He also served as liaison between the Virginia Commission and the Virginia General Assembly and was a staff planner for the Secretary of Human Resources for the Virginia Commonwealth.

Up the river without a cassette

Providing the kind of service that the patron needs is a long-standing NLS goal and frequently also a challenge. A recent letter from an American citizen living abroad presented a whole series of challenges.

- Her address is Cucui, Amazonas, Brazil, but she describes the real location as "a hundred dugout canoe miles from Cucui." Foreign packages to Cucui go through the customs house in Manaus, still another thousand miles away. Because of the distance and the difficulty, she receives mail only three times a year—in April, August, and December.
- There is no electricity, and therefore no way to recharge batteries for disc and cassette players.
- Postal regulations and transportation problems make returning braille books almost impossible.

Her request was for braille magazines, which do not need to be returned. She was

A materials handling system is being developed to streamline service to multistate centers, libraries, and the public. Receiving, storage, shipping, and record-keeping, plus the flow of mail, are being analyzed. Consultants are advising NLS on use of physical space as well as staff utilization. Representing Knight Associates, the firm contracted to create the materials handling system for NLS, are Jerry Moody and James Karis (far right). Building Services staff involved in the project are (from left to right): Adrian Chisholm, Kevin Cross, Kernal Young, Nathaniel Brown, Wellington Datcher.

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immediately sent two braille books on indefinite loan, and her mailing address was corrected for two magazines. She stated that she could not ask for recorded material, because she assumed that maintaining a player was impossible without a way of recharging the battery.

The jungle-model cassette

Henry Paris, Assistant Chief of the Materials Development Office, thinks recharging the battery won't present tremendous difficulties. What is required is a cassette machine modified so that its battery can be recharged by solar power, rather than by plugging it into the conventional wall socket. According to Mr. Paris, "No new technology is required to produce a solar-powered cassette; it's simply a matter of adapting existing technology to the particular purpose." It is also a low-cost project.

Plans have been made and parts ordered to provide a small, light-weight, heavy-duty unit to recharge the cassette battery. The panel housing silicon solar cells will measure less than a standard sheet of typing paper and will be from 1/4 to 3/8 of an inch thick. Assistant Technical Officer Nick O'Donnell has modified the standard cassette with a jack to accept the solar-powered source.

Problems that also had to be considered included corrosion during the canoe trip, fungus growth, and the jungle humidity. All parts will be coated with a sealant before shipment.

The unit should be completed and ready for delivery before the August canoe trip up the Amazon. Two batteries will be supplied. One will be charging in the tropical sun while the other is being used in the player.

Although solar-powered cassettes will not be manufactured for general distribution, once the design is completed for this first model, it will be possible to build them for patrons in other areas that are without electricity.

Air Force assists

The overseas patron writes about her problems lightly and with humor. Her request for braille books explains that mail is carried from Manaus to Cucui by the Brazilian Air Force and she doesn't want to overload the plane with braille. The patron has been in Brazil since 1972, where she and her husband and daughter are working to introduce food plants from similar environments. They are completely isolated, with only rare contacts with hunters, scientific groups, and the porters who bring in supplies.

Resolution approved at ALA meeting

A resolution on radio reading services was prepared by the ASCLA/LSBPHS Radio Reading Services Committee and approved at the ALA Mid-winter meeting. The resolution calls for a cooperative effort among national, state, and local agencies to develop and operate radio reading and information services. It also asserts that libraries have an obligation to provide these services.

Eighty-four such services currently provide information over 106 stations in thirty-three states. Twenty-three additional stations are now being planned to meet the needs of persons unable to use regular print.

Demand for cassette players growing worldwide

A two-year effort to inform the world community serving blind and physically handicapped individuals of the benefits and availability of the NLS cassette player has yielded impressive results. In this short period of time orders ranging from one machine to ten thousand machines have been placed by over seventeen international sources.

Purchasers include but are not limited to the Australia Royal Blind Society, the Organasacion Nacional De Ciegos de Espana (Madrid Spain), the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and various other libraries in England, the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales, various libraries in Canada, the Comite Internacional Pro Ciegos (Mexico) and The Union of the Blind of Croatia, Yugoslavia.

An inquiry has also been received from the Soviet Union and a sample machine has been sent for consideration.

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How to increase patrons

From March 1979 to November 1979, the Kansas City (Kansas) Subregional Library outreach program was in full swing. The purpose was to increase readership. Under the direction of Librarian Stanley Gardner, the number of patrons rose from 712 to 1,222. During the same nine-month period, circulation also went up comparably.

Because of his success in devising a plan that increased patrons in his service area by more than 70 percent in less than a year, Mr. Gardner was invited to share his ideas on outreach activities with readers of NLS *News*. Here are highlights of his suggestions for other network libraries:

Planning is the key to successful outreach efforts, says Mr. Gardner. Ask yourself, he says, what it is that you want to accomplish. Then, when you are sure that you have the necessary administrative support, make a definite plan that includes the development of contacts in the community and the media. Some of the specific activities Mr. Gardner recommends are advertising on radio, television, and in newspapers, as well as in mass mailings; working with public libraries so that they become a mini-network for program support; asking other people for ideas and opinions for the campaign; and leaving time to plan, review, and reflect.

1. Make a plan. It can be a formal written plan with full details, a general outline, or a roughed-out plan in your head. Decide exactly what it is that you want to accomplish.

- Be sure you have enough supplies—books, machines, application forms, lots of handouts that explain the talking-book program, publications, and similar items.
- Be sure you have enough personnel to handle the project. There are some advantages to part-time staff; they may not cost as much, they can adjust their hours to short-term needs, and they usually want to work more hours than you can give them. Use high school students to make up informational packets and to perform routine work such as shelving books, inspecting and rewinding cassettes. You need at least one full-time person to handle the office while you spend your time making community and media contacts.
- Do not start a public relations program unless you have the political and financial support of the appropriate administrative agency, board, or director. You also have to have enough staff to handle current workload plus a fourth to a half again because of the extra activities. You either need an office manager or you must be the office manager and have someone else run the public relations campaign. You must have a staff that supports you and meets the public well, in person and on the phone.

2. Make contacts with people who can pass your information on to large groups of individuals or to selected target populations.

- Have lots of radio spots in script form—10, 20, 30, and 60 seconds. Use prerecorded spots for those who want them that way. Use the NLS television spots and also have a script or two to make your own television announcements with the help of your broadcasters.
- Remember that media people respond best to a friendly approach. Don't forget that you are selling a service—you are a salesperson in a program that cannot use high-pressure techniques. If you are in a metropolitan area, the radio and television stations are being bombarded by people who want their personal messages to be broadcast; you have to convince stations that *your* message is worth getting out. The best way to contact the media is in person—using the telephone is fine after you know them, but get to know the media first. If you are lucky, you may be able to get the media to make your spots for you.
- Don't forget other sources—newspapers, local magazines, church newsletters, civic organizations, banks and other businesses, colleges, public libraries, legislators, county and city agencies, etc.

Local community colleges usually have television studios. If approached through the college librarian, a studio will usually put together spots or modify the ones you have.

Go in person to all nursing homes, hospitals, retirements centers, and senior citizen centers. You will be asked to speak to groups of people in these settings. Do it. Such groups spread the word about the program faster than you can. Many times a contemporary of a potential patron will convince the individual to ask for our services, whereas if we tried, the individual might reject services out of hand because of pride or the fact that we are not known.

Get invited to civic group meetings to talk about the program and urge these groups to help identify patrons.

Public libraries are the backbone of all public relations activities—they can make or break you. Approach the libraries carefully. *Ask* if they will set up a demonstration of machines, headphones, and a small deposit collection. Most will agree. Then ask if they have large-print readers or others who might use our services. The first time a public library refers a patron or sends an application form, you know you have probably established the necessary support of that public library. Never forget the public libraries when you write your newsletter. Refer to the local public libraries as places your patrons can go for personal attention and help in selecting books. If you've arranged it beforehand, tell patrons that they can check out some of the deposit collection from the local public library.

At least once a year, hold a workshop for the librarians, activities directors, social workers, and others who work directly with your patrons.

Four new television public service announcements (PSAs) for network library distribution have been modified on the advice of an ad hoc consumer panel. Lynn Park (l) representing the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Irving Schloss, of the American Foundation for the Blind (r), and Vicki Cox Stanton (not pictured), of the National Association of the Physically Handicapped, reviewed scripts and video treatment. Five other organizations invited were unable to send representatives. The new PSAs will run 30 seconds or less and are written for local network library tags to be added. Radio announcements and live copy for television and radio are also being developed.

Work continues on foreign language program

Emphasis in the foreign language program during the past year has been on producing Spanish-language titles. At the beginning of 1980 there were 121 recorded and 9 braille Spanish titles in the NLS collection. An additional 354 Spanish-language titles have been selected for production.

Other foreign-language titles to be produced by NLS include a limited number of titles in French, German, Italian, Polish, and possibly a few other languages. In building a collection of these foreign titles the primary emphasis is on obtaining recorded and braille titles from overseas sources.

Currently there are ten French, three German, and one Italian language titles listed in the NLS microfiche catalog. Eighteen French, thirteen German, seven Italian, and five Portuguese language titles are now being produced.

The three recorded foreign-language magazines in the NLS program all have had an increase in subscribers during 1979. *Selecciones del Reader's Digest* increased from 810 subscribers to 972, *Buenhogar* increased from 151 to 462, and *Reader's Digest* in German increased from 430 to 509. The feasibility of producing or acquiring *Reader's Digest* in French and Italian is being explored.

Copyright clearance problems and nonavailability of print books continue to cause some delays in building a foreign-language collection. Obtaining pre-recorded or brailled material from abroad has its own set of problems, including communication difficulties and reaching the proper organizations.

Some network libraries are working with volunteers to produce foreign-language materials. About twelve Spanish language titles have been produced by the Texas Regional Library and are listed in the NLS microfiche catalog.

Development of a model manual circulation system is near completion. In Washington in February to review the system and plan a special handbook for network libraries were Ann Walker of Battelle Columbus Laboratories and Beverly Papai, former Michigan subregional librarian and consultant to Battelle for this project.

International briefs

England. The Brotherton Library of the University of Leeds has developed a new reading area equipped with special facilities to serve their visually handicapped students and staff members. The area includes two soundproofed study rooms that allow readers to use listening and recording equipment. A collection of braille books with a braille catalogue is being developed and a cassette collection is planned.

Australia. Planning for the National Union Catalogue of Library Materials for the Handicapped is now moving along swiftly and testing of the system is underway. Construction of the union catalog by the National Library was recommended by the Working Party on Library Services for the Handicapped in its report, published by the Library in July. The union catalog is being constructed as a machine-held file with COM fiche output, which means the catalog can be widely distributed and updated regularly and economically. The system is designed to utilize the Australian MARC Record Service to the maximum extent possible.

The Netherlands. The workshop on computerized booklending held at 'De Nederlandsche Blindenbibliotheek" in the Hague from January 16 through January 19 was so successful that a detailed proposal for further cooperation is being developed. The purpose of the endeavor is to develop uniform standards and international cooperation among automation specialists in the field. Those interested in participating in the project can obtain a copy of the agreement from "Nederlandsche Blindenbibliotheek, Zichtenburglaan 260, 2544 EB, The Hague.

Talking-Book equipment now readily available

An adequate supply of talking-book and cassette machines is now readily available. Public libraries are encouraged to obtain demonstration equipment from local network libraries and to advise readers on how to obtain these machines and library service from cooperating network agencies.

News

Edwin Dowlin of Applied Management Sciences, Inc., with NLS Project Monitor Karen Renninger, reports on the network volunteer utilization study. Mr. Dowlin's firm is under contract to: identify types of tasks volunteers are already performing; assess the time and value of time donated by volunteers; evaluate the network's administrative support of volunteer programs; analyze the cost and program effectiveness of paid versus volunteer resources; recommend effective use of volunteers in the future; and compare current utilization to standards established by the ALA.

Network exchange

The **New Jersey Library for the Blind and Handicapped** has received two LSCA grants for part-time staff positions for the next two years. A specialist in services to deaf individuals will be hired to conduct workshops in signing and other skills for public libraries in the state. A second staff member will be assigned to telephone readers to update records and refine reading-preference files.

Ray Calvert, who joined the **Florida Regional Library** staff last summer and is particularly interested in reference work, is a recently published author. Mr. Calvert wrote two chapters of *The Bible Almanac*, edited by James I. Packer, Merrill C. Tenney, and William White, and published by Thomas Nelson. The book was featured on the cover of the February 15 issue of *Publishers' Weekly*.

Alar Kruus, regional librarian for **New York City**, has accepted a temporary assignment to direct automation of book-processing functions for the New York Public Library. Barbara Nugent is acting director of the regional library.

In 1979 the **New York** legislature appropriated $550,000 for the purchase or Kurzweil reading machines by each of the state's twenty-two library systems. The first orders are now being filled.

The **Florida Regional Library** recently purchased the Catholic University Microfiche Library to improve statewide reference service on handicaps. The regional library has also worked out a cooperative cataloging/reference relationship with Stetson University in DeLand, Florida.

A new subregional library was opened in **Agana, Guam** on November 7, 1979. Local television and cable news covered the event to help publicize the new service. The library is staffed by Helen P. Alvarez and Pauline V. Concepcion.

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News

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May-June 1980, Vol. 11, No. 3

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DEPOSITORY 376

City, state, senate honor inmate braillers

Gov. Harry Hughes of Maryland has issued a resolution declaring July 1 as Baltimore Braille Association (BBA) Day. BBA is a group of inmates at the Maryland State Penitentiary near Baltimore that works in conjunction with NLS to produce braille books and repair cassette machines. This occasion is the first time a state has designated an appreciation day for an inmate operated facility.

The quality and quantity of the men's work has earned them a U.S. Senate commendation "for their dedicated work in providing services and materials to the blind and [physically] handicapped." Baltimore mayor William Schaefer has also issued a declaration and awarded the men a certificate of commendation.

These honors are for a group that produced their first bound braille books as recently as October 1979. That first shipment was the product of one week's work: 537 pages for a total of eight volumes.

Since that first week of operation, the group has thermoformed and bound an average of 400 volumes per week. For the month of March, 100,183 pages—1,079 volumes—were produced.

Donald Blackwell, founder and president of the Baltimore Braille Association, at work on an NLS cassette machine.

The impetus for instituting the program grew out of conversations between two inmates, Donald Blackwell, now president of BBA, and Frederick Hutchinson, current production manager of the operation. The two men were concerned about the lack of training opportunities for prisoners. They approached the prison administration and NLS last July, and in late September braille duplicators, binding equipment, and supplies were being delivered to the institution.

According to Bob Kost, Head of Production at NLS, the volume of work is amazing and a terrific help to the NLS program. But the greatest benefit may well be the marketable vocational skills being learned by the men involved in doing the work. The men also repair cassettes for NLS at the rate of about ten per day.

As Donald Blackwell sees it, the program creates job skills and increases the possibility for the participants to reintegrate into society in a positive and productive way. "A few months ago, these men were involved in meaningless institutional work," states Blackwell. "Now we have many men producing an impressive amount of quality braille volumes each week. They believe in what they're doing. It has given them something meaningful to do."

Advisory group meets on collection building

A group of NLS Network librarians, consumer advisors, and program users met with NLS staff on April 9 and 10 to provide guidance for current and future collection development activities.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Collection Building Activities meets each year to discuss problems of collection

LC 19.13:

John Collins, reader-at-large; Ovella Polansky, National Association of the Physically Handicapped, Inc.; Mildred Meck, reader-at-large; and Rene Perrance, network librarian, discuss problems of collection building.

building that could affect program users and librarians. Topics for the 1980 meeting included the impact of weeding the collection of outdated, obsolete, or worn-out book titles; foreign language collection building and the priorities to be applied; a report on the status of development of a standardized reader profile form; discussions on subjects for bibliographies and the priorities for recommended subjects; and collection building activities.

Representatives from all areas of the country make up the 1980 Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Network librarians were Deenie Culver, Anniston, Alabama, representing the Southern Region; Leslie Eldridge, San Francisco, representing the Western Region; Barbara Nugent, New York City, representing the Northern Region; and Rene Perrance, Faribault, Minnesota, representing the Midlands Region.

Consumer organizations were represented by Karen Lourcey, American Council of the Blind; Ellsworth Sharpe, Blinded Veterans Association; and Ovella Polansky, National Association of the Physically Handicapped, Inc. Ramona Walhof, representative for the National Federation of the Blind, was unable to attend.

Readers-at-large included Dr. Robert K. Armstrong, Memphis, Tennessee; John Collins, Falls Church, Virginia; Linda Coté, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mildred Meck, Topeka, Kansas; and Hugh Saglio, West Hartford, Connecticut.

Network exchange

Connecticut. Mary Tincovich retired as regional librarian on March 27. She will be traveling and working with a new radio reading services project. Eleanor Monckton is acting librarian.

New York. The Albany regional library has sent readers a guide to the library in large print, on cassette, or on flexible disc. The guide explains how to use the library and lists materials and services provided. There are chapters on machine use and service, how to contact the library, how to request books, what to do about damaged books, and other basic information.

California. For the past year the San Francisco subregional library has been holding bimonthly sneak previews of new NLS books. Patrons are able to take books home with them that day. Attendance averages around fifty readers, who are enthusiastic about this advance notice. Library staff also likes the program, as a chance to learn about patron reading interests, increase circulation, and lessen the fierce competition for titles once announcement is made in *TBT*.

Florida. Sherry Hokanson, Head, Field Services Section at the Florida regional library, has accepted a position in Washington state as librarian for the Yakima Indian Nation.

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Rhode Island. Readers were recently surveyed about service and problems with machines. Half of the respondents were over 60; 70 percent had a cassette machine and preferred cassettes to discs; 12 percent reported problems with the cassette machine.

A series of activities to increase public awareness of the NLS program is underway. Regional Librarian Richard Leduc appeared on TV twice and has plans for two more shows, taped a 15-minute segment for a radio broadcast, and participated in a radio call-in program.

Ohio. Mary Jane Holcomb is now regional librarian at Cincinnati. Jim Kennedy, former librarian, is heading data processing at Cincinnati Public Library.

Michigan. The Lansing regional library received a $150,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Education to expand services to schools and students. A media center will be developed to consolidate the educational and textbook collections of the library and the Michigan School for the Blind. Collections housed in local schools and school districts will be added. The media center will also handle tape duplication, braille thermoforming, and large-print photo reproduction.

Miriam Pace

Alabama. Regional Librarian Miriam Pace has just finished narrating three National Endowment for the Arts books. Ms. Pace has recently been approved as a narrator by the regional library's special narration board composed of a blind patron, a teacher, a speech therapist, a communications expert, and a radio announcer. Her first book was *Love Leaves at Midnight* by Barbara Cartland.

Virgin Islands. Michael Herz has been appointed regional librarian.

New Jersey. The regional library is working with Talking Books for Hospitals (TBH), a volunteer organization headed by Donald M. Higgins, to supply hospitals with mobile audio library carts. The first carts, each containing twenty cassette players and fifty cassettes, were presented in March to three New Jersey hospitals. TBH has provided a new tape duplicator for the regional library to insure adequate copies of books. Several other groups are cooperating in this joint project: playback equipment is from new Jersey Commission for the Blind; machine service is from Telephone Pioneers; and volunteers to manage carts are from Delta Gamma sorority.

Mississippi. The State Library Commission Service for the Handicapped has been named by *Mississippi Magazine* as "best group of the year" for the talking-book program. The Mississippi library has a new support group, Friends of Handicapped Readers, which will act as a public relations agent to promote library services. The group has already raised money to purchase a sound reduction recording booth and is currently soliciting funds for the recording equipment.

Foreign visitor tells of new process

During a specially conducted orientation for a foreign visitor, NLS learned details of a new way of making raised-line illustrations. The process, developed only last year, can produce raised-relief pictures from photographs and printed illustrations.

Staff members learned details of the process from Kazuhiko Kitagawa, a director of service for the blind at the National Diet Library in Tokyo, Japan's counterpart to the Library of Congress. His library started a talking-book program in 1975. Mr. Kitagawa came on an official visit to NLS with an interest in strengthening Japan's library programs for blind readers and he was pleased to share information.

The process developed in Japan is simple, fast, and relatively inexpensive. A chemically treated paper picks up and raises images from printed matter. Two adapted photocopying machines are used to transfer the images to the treated copy paper. The height of the raised illustrations depends on the intensity of the print image: white reproduces flat, black is up to three times higher than a braille dot, and grays are somewhere in between.

Blind and sighted NLS staff members examined various samples of the product that Mr. Kitagawa brought. They found illustrations of the brain and central nervous system too detailed to be easily understood by touch. But they were

impressed by line drawings, large-print lettering, and pictures of fish with scales, gills, and fins in clear relief.

The process may have numerous applications to braille magazines and books that contain maps, charts, and diagrams. It may even prove to be an improvement over current embossing methods for producing raised-line drawings.

NLS has already placed orders for the treated paper and the two-machine unit known as the Happo-ki, Hukusha-ki. The next steps will be to investigate the applications of the process to different materials, to find whether it can be easily adapted to mass-produced braille, and—most important—to obtain reactions from braille readers.

NLS 1980

Biennial conference

The NLS biennial conference of cooperating libraries will be held in conjunction with the Helen Keller Centennial Congress in Boston, June 23-28. It will begin with a full day meeting on Monday, June 23, prior to the opening of the congress that evening. The first day will be an orientation to the NLS program primarily for those new to the network. Regular sessions for the remainder of the week will begin at 1:30.

Topics are primarily informational and cover NLS developments in technology, collection building, materials, and network service. Subjects of particular interest to the network include alternative approaches to funding, the manual circulation system, volunteer studies, and the comprehensive mailing-list system.

Time is allotted for meetings of the four regional conferences and reports from the multistate centers. There will also be an open discussion period for consideration of network concerns.

Boston journal

In April Elizabeth Carl, Acting Head of Resources Coordination, went to Boston to coordinate arrangements for the NLS biennial conference. She also recorded some practical information for the benefit of conference participants.

The Park 57 Plaza Hotel, in which the NLS conference will be held in June, is located three blocks south of the Boston Common. The hotel is a modern high rise, and most rooms have glass doors and balconies offering various perspectives on the city.

A Howard Johnson's restaurant and coffee shop in the hotel offers the usual fare, and the 57 Restaurant caters to those who prefer more elegant food and surroundings. Two movie theaters in the block show first-run films.

Helen Keller Congress meetings will be held in the Hynes Auditorium and the Sheraton Boston, both in the Prudential Center complex about ten blocks away—roughly .9 miles. The walk takes fifteen to twenty minutes.

It is possible to travel about half the distance by taking the subway from Arlington Station to either Auditorium or Copley Station. The distraction of the Copley Station route is that the Boston Public Library, subject of all those library-school lectures, rises above the subway stairs and urges exploration.

The limousine ride to the hotel from Logan Airport took about thirty minutes at noon on a weekday, and the fare was $3.25. This price included a distinguished rendition of the monolog for which Boston cab drivers are famous.

On the return trip—armed with a briefcase, garment bag, carry-on suitcase, and a sense of duty—I tried taking the MBTA (Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority) to the airport, to see if it could be done. Thirty-five minutes and fifty cents later, I was at the airline counter.

Although in my own sample the travel time by mass transit and by taxi turned out about equal, I understand that at rush hour automobile traffic snarls in the tunnel to reach downtown Boston, while the subway proceeds on its way.

With quarters in hand, arriving travelers wishing to try the MBTA should catch an airport bus marked for the subway; then catch the Blue Line inbound marked Bowdoin or Government Center. At Government Center, transfer to the Green Line and ride southbound to Arlington Station. Emerge from the subway and ask for directions to the hotel, which is about three blocks away.

Operating from the hotel's central location, it is possible to make good use of sightseeing time in whatever size chunks it appears. The Freedom Trail begins in the middle of the forty-eight-acre Boston Common—about a fifteen-minute walk from the hotel, proceeds to historic points in-

Elizabeth Carl

cluding the site of the Boston Massacre and the Old North Church, and ends about a mile and a half from the Common at the Bunker Hill Monument.

I found it hard to stay on the trail when such divergent nearby lures as the Athenaeum and the Brookstone Tool Catalog store kept spiriting me away. Passive sightseers may be content simply to sit in the Common and watch the roller skaters.

Beyond the Freedom Trail and the downtown area, Cambridge beckons across the river, and is easily accessible by subway.

Joggers will not be surprised to find plenty of company in the home of the Boston Marathon, though flatlanders may need to take it easy on the slopes. Many serious runners seem to choose the Storrow Drive area along the Charles River—about ten blocks from the hotel.

Conference participants will find no shortage of interesting places to explore in their spare time—but they may want to plan an extra day or two for the spare time in which to explore them.

Helen Keller 1880-1980

Centennial congress

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Helen Keller's birth, professionals, consumers, and volunteers in the field of blindness will participate in a congress to work together in shaping new priorities and programs to meet the needs of blind, visually impaired, and deaf-blind people.

Pulitzer Prize winner Joseph P. Lash will address the opening session Monday night. Mr. Lash is the author of *Helen and Teacher*, a biography of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan that is being published this spring to coincide with the centennial.

The keynote speaker for the congress is Eric T. Boulter, Esq., C.B.E., Director General of the Royal National Institute for the Blind in London, England.

The general sessions and concurrent workshops on each of the next four days will revolve around one of the four goal areas of the congress and will feature presentations by authorities in each area. All the general sessions will be held from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m., with workshops from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Themes—Helen Keller Congress

June 24
The Early Years (education)

June 25
The Middle Years (rehabilitation and employment)

June 26
The Later Years (needs of the elderly)

June 27
Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities (consumerism)

Suzanne Thorin Perlongo to head Music Section

On April 14 Suzanne Thorin Perlongo joined the NLS staff as Head of the Music Section. She comes from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where, as an Associate Professor, she was head of the music library. Prior to her ten years in Pennsylvania, she taught music in the Chicago Public Schools and with Project Upward Bound at Northwestern University.

Ms. Perlongo holds a bachelor's degree in music education and master's degrees in both music history and library science from the University of Michigan. She is currently working toward a doctorate in library science at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1978 she was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in a summer seminar that examined *Music in Medieval Life and Culture*. In 1979 and 1980 she received two research grants from her university to study the musical life at the American Academy in Rome from 1923 to World War II.

Ms. Perlongo is editor of the Music Library Association (MLA) *Newsletter*, and she is now finishing a glossary of music cataloging terms to be published by MLA in its Technical Reports series. She is also a member of the International Association of Music Libraries.

She is a lyric soprano who has sung the roles of Michaela in *Carmen* and Fiordiligi in *Cosi Fan Tutte*. Her most recent recital included songs by Pizzetti, Purcell, and Schubert.

Suzanne Thorin Perlongo

Texas regional library

A big service for a big state

Material for this article was furnished by Patsy Castro, Administrative Assistant at the Texas regional library.

Providing library service to blind and physically handicapped residents of Texas is a huge job, but it is as near as a telephone. Patrons make requests, report machine problems, and take care of other library business on three rotating WATS lines.

All of Texas is served by the regional library in Austin. At the end of FY 1979, the Texas State Library's Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (DBPH) was serving 20,000 people with talking-book records, 14,599 with cassettes, 198 with open-reel, 1,295 with braille, and 5,115 with large print—for a total media count of 41,207, one of the largest in the country.

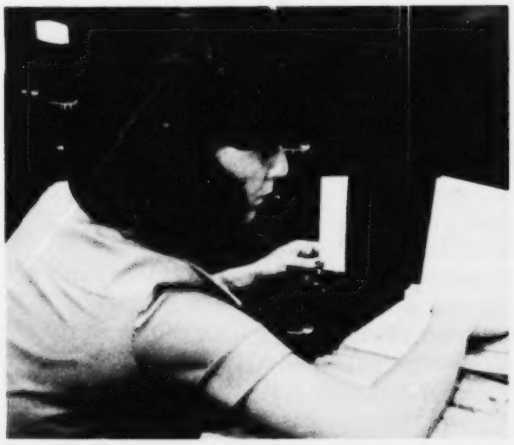
Many more patrons are being reached as a result of the NLS publicity campaign conducted in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

Automated circulation

An automated circulation system, one of the first in the network of libraries serving blind and physically handicapped individuals, was designed in the early 70s. Annual circulation is approximately 847,770, including direct-circulation magazines and large-print books.

The system was implemented for the large-print medium in March 1973, for discs in August 1973, and for cassette books in September 1974.

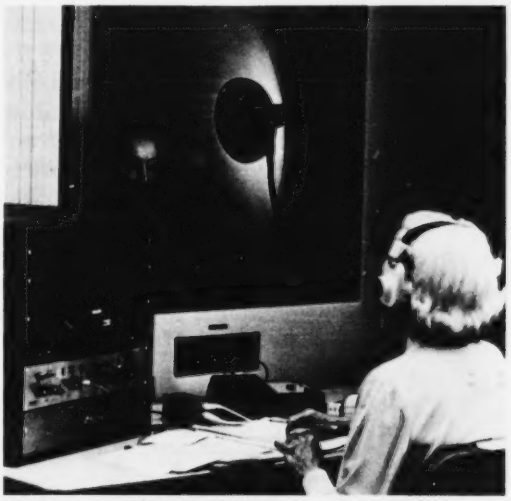
Automation provides a method of inventory and a way of controlling book circulation. It also keeps a record of overdue books and generates overdue notices in English and in Spanish. The usual loan period is one month.



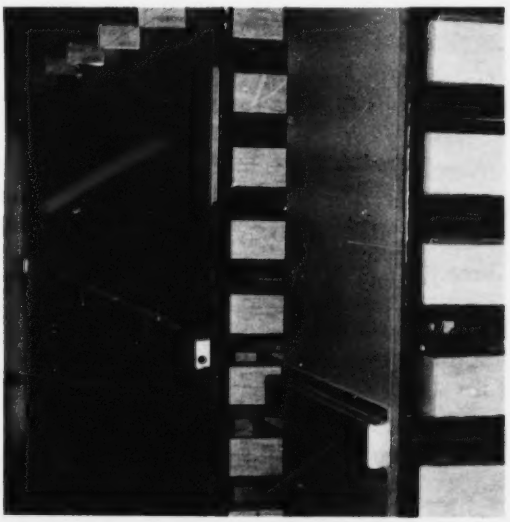
Reader Consultant Linda Buie checks a patron file

Reader services

The Reader Services Section works closely with the automated system and with patrons. Eleven reader consultants handle book and magazine requests, answer questions about patron service, give advice or suggestions on reading material, and use computer terminals to access information in the computer files. One reader consultant manually selects braille material, and one magazine clerk mails periodicals.



Volunteers Therese East (narrating) and Marjorie Cain (monitoring) record books for the Volunteer Recording Program.



Movable shelving installed in February

The Texas State Library, DBPH is on the second floor, with stack areas on the ground floor.

The large circulation in Texas keeps the shipping and receiving staff busy.

Tape duplication

A few years ago, to meet the demand for cassette books, a Tape Duplication Section was added. This section averages 481 volumes duplicated a month, as well as 305 copies of the six cassette periodicals circulated. The duplication is accomplished by twenty-seven cassette slave units. One result has been to help increase cassette circulation to approximately 20,000 books a month.

The Remastering Project has also added more titles to the cassette book collection. The open-reel medium had many popular titles; however, circulation was very low, due mainly to the difficulty of handling the medium and the unavailability of free machines. With some private foundation money and LSCA money, open-reel books are being converted to cassette tape. This project will be completed this year. These books will be available to interested libraries.

Volunteer recording

DBPH has always had requests from patrons for books about Texas and, with a growing Spanish-speaking readership, more books in Spanish. To satisfy this demand, a Volunteer Recording Program was initiated and recording began in December 1977.

Books about Texas and the Southwest, books in Spanish, requests from patrons for books not already available, and magazines concerning Texas are recorded for the program. The monthly production averages ten books.

Reference services

Another important aid to patrons is reference service. Information on aids and appliances, sources of volunteer taping and brailling, and answers to general reference questions can be obtained.

Space problems

The Texas library has grown in readership, in services provided to patrons, and in the size of the collection. With a critical need for space, DBPH purchased some movable shelving. Installation of the units in one stack area was immediate and operable within two weeks' time. This shelving has doubled the capacity of this one room in which cassette books are stored.

The library hopes for funding for additional space—a hope that did not materialize last year but may be considered again this year.

News

International briefs

Australia. The Australian National Social Sciences Library began publication in March of *Link-up*, a bimonthly newsletter about library services for handicapped people. It may be ordered from Principal Librarian (Social Sciences), ANSOL, National Library of Australia, Canberra ACT 2600, Australia.

India. As part of the International Year of the Child program, a UNICEF grant was used by the Government of India Department of Social Welfare to provide free textbooks to fifteen schools for blind students in Maharashtra.

The Lighthouse for the Blind in Calcutta has begun publishing a magazine dealing with work for blind individuals.

Malaysia. The Malayan Association for the Blind is expanding its braille library to include reference material and professional literature. The library produces all its local-language books and some books in English. The collection had to be reestablished in 1971, when the library was destroyed by a flood.

The Deputy Librarian at the University of Malaya, who visited NLS last year, is setting up a library section for blind students.

France. The English Language Library for the Blind lends recorded books of English and American literature to blind and partially sighted readers in eighteen countries. Many subscribers are students working on French degrees for the teaching of English. The talking books are recorded by a group of fifty volunteers, who are a cross-section of the English-speaking community in Paris. The address is 5 avenue Daniel-Leseur, Domaine des Ombrages, 78160, Marly-le-Roi, France.

England. Warwick University's Research Unit for the Blind has won a commission to design the computer system for producing Arabic braille for Saudi Arabia. The system, for use in a major Arabian publishing house, will allow keyboarders with no knowledge of braille to input text for automatic conversion to embossed metal plates from which braille books can be made. In the past, conversion from ordinary Arabic to contracted Arabic braille has required a skilled person, as it contains a large number of complex abbreviations to speed reading.

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News

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DEPOSITORY 376

Library's pace-setting braille technology expands options for blind readers

A braille book was ready for circulation to readers this summer almost as soon as the print edition appeared in bookstores. *Helen and Teacher*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joseph Lash, was published in print on May 30. Soon after Mr. Lash addressed the Helen Keller Centennial Congress a month later, the braille edition of his book had been produced.

The braille edition was readied so soon after the print book by using compositor tapes, the storage medium used to drive the phototypesetting equipment for the print book. This is the first time that compositor tapes have been used to produce a book, much less a book this long. The 786-page print book takes eight volumes in braille.

Magazine test period

The magazine *National Geographic* has been produced by this method for more than a year, and the satisfactory results led to the production of the first book. The magazine test period proved that the tapes can interface with braille plate-embossing devices. The process is not as simple as using the tape from one machine to drive another; some manual intervention is needed to recode for certain braille contractions and to format the braille pages.

Advance planning

Even with the new technology, considerable advance planning was required to produce an eight-volume braille book to coincide with the publication of the print version. It also took cooperation.

The compositor tapes were provided prior to print publication by arrangement with the publisher, Delacorte Press/Seymour Lawrence. The publishing house also provided prepublication galleys to National Braille Press, the Boston firm that worked with NLS to produce the braille edition. The galleys were used to help code braille contractions and to proofread.

Helen and Teacher is a dual biography of Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan, and was produced in braille by the fastest possible method because of the particular interest of readers in the subject, especially in connection with the centennial celebration of Helen Keller's birth.

Production from tapes

Braille book production by compositor tapes was described by Dr. Van Vliet of the Netherlands at the 1978 Braille Production Conference in Madrid. That report, plus the work of John Gill of the Warwick Research Unit for the Blind in England, stimulated NLS to reexamine the status of print computer composition in the United States.

Braille production from compositor tapes should be increasingly important in the future.

When the *National Geographic* project began, the technology for print was providing editorially accurate tapes, but only about 20 percent of print books were produced by this method. That number is expected to approach 80 percent in the early 1980s. Braille technology will be ready to utilize the print technology for faster and more efficient production.

Inside

This edition explores the wide range of efforts sponsored by the Library of Congress to enhance the availability of braille reading materials for blind individuals. See page 5.

LC 19.13:

Hylda Kamisar, Head of NLS Reference Section

Kamisar receives Mudge Award

Hylda Kamisar, Head of the NLS Reference Section, received the 1980 Isadore Gilbert Mudge Citation at the American Library Association national conference in July. The Mudge Award is given annually by the Reference and Adult Services Division to a person who has made a distinguished contribution to reference librarianship.

Since Ms. Kamisar came to NLS in 1967, she has developed a comprehensive working collection of reference materials that include circulars, factsheets, directories, bibliographies, and package libraries. Package libraries provide packets of information that include brochures, reprints of articles, bibliographies, and other current information.

The value of this reference service is shown through the increasing number of inquiries handled each year. In 1978-79 the Reference Section handled more than 21,000 inquiries. Most of the reference circulars are available for blind and physically handicapped patrons in braille or on flexible discs.

Ms. Kamisar has also conducted workshops on reference services to handicapped people at the National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Readers, and at network libraries.

Network Exchange

Alaska. The Alaska regional library has less than 2,000 square feet of space and operates with the librarian and a half-time clerk. Talking books and braille are usually delivered to remote regions by air, but also go by dog sled, canoe, or snowmobile, and have last priority behind food, medicine, and educational materials. Solar-powered units for operating cassette machines would be useful in remote areas.

Arizona. Arlene Bansal, former regional librarian, has been appointed Deputy Director of the State Library. Dick Peel is now regional librarian.

Ohio. The Cincinnati regional library has started an "I Love a Mystery" book club. Readers who sign up will receive a set of selected mysteries recorded on cassette tape using their high-speed tape duplicator. A new selection of mysteries will be announced every two or three months. If the new program is successful, other book clubs or special cassette services will be offered.

Jacqueline Goodin became regional librarian at Cleveland on May 5. She has been with the Cleveland Public Library since June 1976, working with library service to citizens who find libraries largely inaccessible. She has worked directly with the Braille and Talking-Book Department for more than a year.

California. Leslie Eldridge, librarian at the San Francisco subregional library, has prepared a plan of library services for blind and physically handicapped readers projected through 1989. The plan describes the staff, materials, space, equipment, and services of the library and projects for five and ten years the resources and facilities that will be needed and cost estimates.

Multistate Center for the South. Billie Jean Ouellette assumed the duties of director of the multistate center on June 2. Ms. Ouellette has held a number of professional positions and was regional librarian in Massachusetts from 1967 to 1970 and in Delaware from 1971 through 1978.

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"The Kids on the Block" promote understanding

The Massachusetts subregional library, administered by the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System, is using "The Kids on the Block" puppets to provide information about and shape attitudes toward the handicapped.

The six "Kids" were purchased with an LSCA grant, and include a blind boy, a deaf girl, a boy with cerebral palsy, and a young woman with Down's syndrome. The puppeteers are Penelope Johnson, Children's Regional Consultant, and Talking Book Librarian Marlene Temsky. They present brief shows and then help the puppets dialogue with the audience to explain first hand how it feels to be handicapped.

Sign language bookmarks and braille alphabet cards are provided and, if time permits, games which focus on handicaps are played. Performances are scheduled essentially in libraries, but school groups and Cub packs have had special shows.

"Response has been fabulous," says Ms. Temsky. "The Kids come across as so real and so positive that they can dispel unflattering stereotypes as no lecture ever could."

Marlene Temsky, Talking Book Librarian, and Penelope Johnson, Children's Regional Consultant, operate two of the "Kids on the Block."

The Paint Valley Mental Health and Retardation Board in Ohio has also purchased a set of the puppets and their puppeteers are talking with children in south central Ohio and answering their questions about disabilities.

The puppets were created by Barbara Aiello, from the Council on Exceptional Children, and were first used in schools in the District of Columbia. For more information about the puppets, contact Barbara Aiello, Suite 1040, Washington Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Candidates'80

Election-year book ready

Candidates '80, a concise yet thorough look at the major presidential candidates, is now available on flexible disc (RD 14067) and in braille (BR 4342).

Published by Congressional Quarterly, Inc., the book profiles the major candidates, covering political and personal backgrounds, key staff members, and—when applicable—special-interest group ratings and scores from *Congressional Quarterly* voting studies.

The book draws no conclusions, only provides pertinent data which the editors believe will enable voting readers to make an intelligent assessment of the candidates' positions.

International briefs

Denmark. The State Library and Printing House for the Blind loans recorded books and periodicals and braille books and music. It also provides braille magazines that do not have to be returned. All books and magazines on tape and in braille are produced by the State Library. Distribution is chiefly through postage-free mail, and playback equipment is provided without charge.

In 1979, 3,800 books were available in recorded form, 900 on cassette and the remainder on open reel. The circulation was 180,000 copies to 7,000 patrons. Twenty magazines on tape were loaned to as many as 1,450 subscribers. The braille collection contained 34,000 volumes borrowed by 300 patrons. There were 45,000 braille music titles, used by 130 patrons.

News

Alain Lequeux, advisor to the French government on braille library development, visited NLS in May. Topics covered with staff members centered around modern braille production, particularly cassette braille.

Jordan. The Society of the National Library for the Blind works with eight institutions and schools in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Nazareth. During the International Year of the Child, the Society produced 150 children's story books in braille, loaned 500 braille volumes, and circulated 100 tapes. A one-month course is planned for this summer in mobility, daily-living skills, braille, and Arabic and English typewriting.

Finland. The Library of the Blind in Helsinki became nationally operated on July 1, 1978. At the same time service was extended by law to cover all handicapped persons who cannot read print books. Previously the library, the only library service for blind individuals in Finland, was operated by a private association.

England. *Soundaround*, the national magazine on tape for blind persons, celebrated its fifth anniversary in March. It sends out 4,000 90-minute cassettes to listeners as far apart as the Scottish Highlands, California, Sri Lanka, and Australia. Postage for blind subscribers is free and other costs are covered by donations. The magazine is produced in London, in a tiny recording studio and control room not much bigger than a telephone booth.

Another recorded magazine, the *National Tate Magazine*, was established by William Cox of Lincolnshire three years ago. Mr. Cox has been blind for fifty-five of his fifty-six years and is a qualified social worker. The monthly magazine covers welfare, visits, new legislation, apparatus, and games. The Tate Library for the Blind, established at the same time as the magazine, now houses almost 200 master cassettes of full-length features, travelogues, and interviews. Mr. Cox is adding a soundproof studio to his home, financed by donations.

Japan. Kaiseisha, a publisher of children's books, recently held a series of exhibits of cloth picture books. Each book is hand made by volunteers from cloth, felt, string, beads, zippers, leather, wool, buttons, and other materials. Because of the number of materials involved and because each book is made for an individual child, the books are not suitable for mass production.

Along with improving the children's manual dexterity, the books also improve their powers of concentration and observation. The books can be used as playthings and teaching aids for blind and physically handicapped children as well as those who are mentally retarded or emotionally disturbed.

Information on the cloth picture books is available from Kaiseisha, 3-5 Ichigaya Sadahara-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162, Japan.

Discussing service to Spanish-language users in North and South America are Pedro Zurita of Spain's Organizacion Nacional de Ciegos; Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of NLS; Bruce Massis, Library Director of the Jewish Guild for the Blind in New York City; and Pedro Salinas from Panama's Instituto Panemeno de Habilitation Especial. Representatives from Brazil and Costa Rica also participated in the two-day meeting held at NLS in June.

NLS reorganizes

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has been reorganized to facilitate a more effective workflow and to more accurately describe staff functions. Among the changes are four new components: the Bibliographic Control, Consumer Relations, Production Control, and Quality Assurance Sections. Project Coordination Office positions have been reassigned to the Office of Director; Volunteer Utilization Section positions are now integrated with the Consumer Relations, Braille Codes, and Network Services Sections, and the Materials Development Division; Processing Section positions have been dispersed to the Bibliographic Control, Network Services, and Production Control Sections; and Resources Coordination Unit positions are divided between the Consumer Relations and Network Services Sections.

The contact list (below and on page iv) lists individuals to be contacted directly in matters related to their specific areas of responsibility. The chart on pages ii and iii describes current functions.

Contact List

Office of the Director

Director, Frank Kurt Cylke
Assistant Director,
Mary Jack Wintle
Special Assistant to the Director,
Alice G. Freeman
Secretary to the Assistant Director,
Mildred P. Dyson
Automated Systems Coordinator,
Allen R. Deschere
Project Coordinator,
Richard H. Evensen
Public Resources Officer,
Alfred D. Hagle

Administrative Section

Head, Beatrice J. Branch
Assistant Head,
Benjamin S. Ramey

Publication and Media Section

Head, Martha N. Robinson
Assistant Head, Krandall A. Kraus

Facilities and Materials Handling Section

Head, Wellington G. Datcher

(continued on p. iv)

Organization Chart

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Library of Congress
June 2, 1980

Office of the Director

Forms policy and plans programs; coordinates Materials Development Division and Network Division; plans and implements automation activities; plans and coordinates research and development projects.

Materials Development Division

Selects, produces, distributes, and supervises bibliographic control of reading materials; develops, evaluates, tests, produces, and distributes related equipment; coordinates equipment repair.

Collection Development Section
Selects reading materials to be produced in appropriate media. Acquires print books; requests copyright clearance; prepares annotations; maintains liaisons with publishers and authors; conducts advisory committees and foreign language program.

Bibliographic Control Section
Responsible for bibliographic processing, maintenance, and control; establishes national cataloging standards; coordinates union catalog activities and computer produced catalog and related products.

Production Control Section
Supervises production and distribution of reading materials; monitors and controls productions status and distribution.

Recording Studio Unit
Determines guidance requirements; provides guidance to manufacturers and volunteers; schedules and records materials.

Quality Assurance Section
Assures quality and performance of all products in conformance with established standards and specifications.

Engineering Section
Specifies, develops, and monitors production of products and processes generated by the Materials Development Division; certifies compliance with specifications.

Administrative Section
Coordinates personnel transactions; maintains travel, training, and other official records; coordinates fiscal and contractual activities.

Publication and Media Section
Plans and implements publications, exhibits, and other public education programs.

Facilities and Materials Handling Section
Coordinates shipping and receiving activities and maintenance of the physical facilities.

Network Division

Manages activities related to network development, guidance, and monitoring of service to users in accord with ALA standards; determines user eligibility; maintains liaison with related agencies, volunteers, consumers, and the general public.

Braille Codes Section
Prepares guides and teaching manuals on all codes of braille; trains, certifies, and advises volunteers and others who produce braille materials.

Consumer Relations Section
Maintains liaison with individual users and consumer groups; ensures regular consumer input in NLS program; disseminates information about user inquiries; provides international interlibrary loan service and direct service to U.S. citizens living abroad.

Music Section
Develops, maintains, circulates, and promotes use of national music collection; provides music reference services; develops and distributes instructional materials.

Network Services Section
Coordinates a variety of national network activities including multistate center operations, equipment control, audio tapes advisory service, and consultant services; directs interlibrary loan programs; compiles bibliographies.

Materials Management Unit
Maintains and circulates NLS book collections; coordinates excess and redistribution program.

Reference Section
Maintains print reference collection and provides reference and referral service on blindness and physical handicaps to staff, network agencies, and the public.

Contact List (continued)

Materials Development Division

Chief, Henry B. Paris
Assistant Chief, John J. Kozar
Equipment and Materials Maintenance Coordinator, John R. Reiner

Collection Development Section

Head, Mona M. Werner
Assistant Head, Lucy T. Vecera
Children and Young Adult Librarian, Catherine B. King
Copyright Permissions Assistant, Joyce A. Worthy
Foreign Language Librarian, James R. Herndon

Bibliographic Control Section

Head, (Vacancy)
Union Catalog Editor, Patricia A. Hatlen

Production Control Section

Head, (Vacancy)
Assistant Head, Priscilla Hayden
Recording Studio Director, Michael M. Moodie

Quality Assurance Section

Head, Robert Kost

Engineering Section

Head, Ralph E. Garretson
Assistant to the Head, Dominic F. O'Donnell

Network Division

Chief, Mary B. Levering
Assistant Chief, Karen Renninger

Braille Codes Section

Head, Maxine B. Dorf
Assistant to the Head, Norma M. Sabus
Braille Music Advisor, Sandra D. Walberg
Braille Mathematics Advisor, Donna M. Pastore

Consumer Relations Section*

Head, (Vacancy)

Music Section

Head, Suzanne T. Perlongo
Music Reference Librarian, Shirley P. Emanuel

Network Services Section

Head, Catherine P. Morales
Assistant Head, Elizabeth L. Carl
Head, Materials Management Unit, Samuel Bryant
Equipment Control Officer, Edward J. Lewis
Network Consultant, (Vacancy)
Recording Specialist, Billy R. West

Reference Section

Head, Hylda Kamisar
Assistant Head, Melissa D. Trevvett

*Newly established section not yet organized. For information contact Frank Kurt Cylke, Director.

"Braille is getting a much larger portion of resources and the largest portion of attention"

So says Henry Paris, Chief of the NLS Materials Development Division, who has overall responsibility for braille research and production. He explains that most of the significant research about braille is recent, concentrated in the last five years.

"In the past there was a period of lesser attention. Exciting things were happening with cassettes and discs, and there were only 20,000 braille readers—who used recorded material, too. But that's not true now. The exciting things are happening with braille."

From print to braille

Helen and Teacher is one of 675 books that NLS will produce this year using press braille technology and handcopied masters duplicated on thermoform machines. Books for braille editions are selected to provide a balanced library collection and include fiction and nonfiction bestsellers, westerns, mysteries, romances, gothics, and other books of general interest or for information, education, and recreation.

NLS also provides magazines in braille—currently thirty-three of them—including magazines for children and teens as well as for adults. Fields covered range through news, science, literature, music, sports, science fiction, homemaking, and health.

Magazines are selected for the program according to reader interest, and with much reader involvement in the selection. When a magazine has to be replaced (usually because the print edition is no longer available), subscribers to that magazine are asked to vote on possible replacements on similar subjects. Subscribers to *Magazine of the Quarter*, a sampler of magazines not included in the program, are asked to comment on the value of these magazines for the program. Correspondence from readers often determines the magazines chosen for *Magazine of the Quarter.*

Most of the magazines provided in braille are those produced in print monthly or less often; the subject matter is seldom immediate and therefore does not lose interest during the time required for brailling. An exception is the *New York Times Large Type Weekly,* which is brailled and distributed weekly like its print counterpart.

Total magazine production is approximately 372,000 braille volumes annually. Magazines are sent to individual subscribers, and do not have to be returned to the library.

Press braille

All the magazines and more than half the books are done in press braille, produced by nonprofit organizations that make braille plates, duplicate, and bind the volumes. Presses under contract to NLS provide interpoint braille, which makes impressions on both sides of the braille page.

Press braille is used for books that appeal to a general audience, where many copies may be needed. Because books become a permanent part of the collection and circulate among patrons, they must be sturdier than magazines—with long-lasting paper, more secure binding, and hard covers. Press braille production of 375 titles a year depends on the length of the print book, but averages 75,000 braille volumes.

The number of press braille books that can be produced is dependent on the braille producers. Four firms are under contract to produce braille magazines and books for NLS: American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky; Clovernook Printing House for the Blind in Cincinnati, Ohio; National Braille Press in Boston, Massachusetts; and Volunteer Services for the Blind in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Some British-produced books are purchased from the Royal National Institute for the Blind to avoid duplication of effort.

NLS has taken steps to improve production capacity. In 1978 a computer-controlled zinc plate embosser was developed by Triformation Systems of Stuart, Florida, under NLS direction. Braille plates are produced automatically several times faster than is possible with a human operator, although some compensating time is required for inputting into the computer that drives the embosser. The system was tested at Clovernook and is still operative there. This machine is now also working at National Braille Press.

Using compositor tapes is the most recent development in speeding up the production of press braille.

Braille Publications

NLS provides braille publications to keep readers informed about available books, magazines, and other materials.

Braille Book Review *lists newly produced braille books.*

Press Braille Adult and For Younger Readers *give cumulative listings every two years.*

Bibliographies *list braille books on selected subjects.*

The Musical Mainstream *contains reprints from print periodicals and information on the braille music code.*

Music and Musicians *catalogs list braille scores by instrument.*

Music Article Guide *Braille edition of print index.*

Handcopied braille

NLS's annual production of press braille books is supplemented by 300 handcopied books. Masters are produced on Perkins braillers, proofread, thermoformed, and bound—all by individual volunteers or volunteer groups.

Handcopied braille is generally used for books that appeal to a smaller audience than mass-produced books, and books are announced to readers after copies have been shipped to multistate centers—four depositories in different areas of the country which provide backup services to cooperating libraries.

NLS has taken steps to expedite the production of handcopied braille, as it has the production of press braille. The traditional method of binding requires hand sewing, a time-consuming process that has been performed by volunteer groups around the country for more than forty years. When NLS determined that four bound copies were needed to meet reader demand, the volunteer binderies could not meet the production requirement without help.

In 1976 a new binding method was developed, modifying the material supplied by the Velo-Bind Corporation to the needs of braille. The process takes minutes per volume instead of hours, and at approximately the same cost as hand sewing. The method is simple, the binding is sturdy, and relatively little training is needed.

At the same time, NLS made plans to develop new volunteer groups with interested prison inmates. Three groups have been established, two in Maryland penitentiaries and one in Tennessee. All use the Velo-Bind method and all are extremely productive. There are now twelve volunteer groups including the prisons binding handcopied braille, six using the Velo-Bind process and equipment and six using the traditional method.

The new process and the new groups have made a dramatic difference in making books available to patrons. Two years ago there was a backlog of over 1,200 handcopied braille books that had been mastered but needed thermoforming and binding. For the past two years these books have been bound at the rate of about 400 a year in four copies, in addition to binding the current production of 300 books a year. With the process continuing at the same rate, this year should see the elimination of the backlog.

The prison groups also thermoform and bind extra copies of books in the collection when a demand is identified. Additional copies can be provided within a week of sending the master to the group.

An automated system to identify reader demand is operational at the Midlands multistate center. This system automatically records handcopied braille books charged-in and charged-out and maintains waiting lists. At present, the other three multistate centers record demands manually, but will soon convert to the automated procedure.

Exchange and loan

Some hard-to-get braille items are being obtained by international exchange and loan. In the fall of 1979 a list of books with excess copies in the NLS collection was sent to thirty foreign libraries, which were asked about interest in exchange possibilities. Thus far, libraries in ten countries have replied. Lists of English-language material have been received from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. NLS has already acquired some German braille.

Some non-English braille has been obtained on loan in response to patron requests. The Scandinavian countries have been particularly cooperative.

NLS is pursuing methods for acquiring non-English braille. Where overseas libraries do not have sufficient materials for exchange or loan, possibilities for purchase are being investigated.

Braille music

Material produced overseas has been especially valuable to the music collection, since language does not necessarily prevent use of music and the music codes of different countries are sufficiently similar to be readable by many musicians.

NLS Maintains the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of braille scores and braille books on music. Most additions to the braille music collection are made through purchase from presses in the United States and abroad. Additional titles are selected to reflect reader demand and are produced in handcopied braille by music braillists certified by the Library of Congress.

A significant addition to the NLS offerings is *Dictionary of Braille Music Signs*, published last fall by NLS and written by

Bettye Krolick, a professional musician, music braillist, and consultant for NLS. This dictionary, in one large-print and two braille volumes, defines more than 400 braille music signs and contains sections on the history of the braille music code, formats for braille music, and the fundamentals of braille music. It is the only reference work of its kind for blind musicians using braille music notation.

Training braillists

Volunteers who produce handcopied braille masters are trained in braille transcription using Library of Congress courses through correspondence or with local groups. They are required to submit a series of exercises of increasing difficulty until they obtain the level of proficiency necessary for certification. Transcriptions are proofread and evaluated by blind NLS staff members. Between 450 and 500 people a year achieve certification in literary braille. Certified brailists produce books and other material for network libraries and local agencies, as well as for NLS.

NLS also offers courses leading to certification in music braille and in proofreading. Certification for these more specialized subjects averages twelve people a year for each course. A manual for mathematics transcription has been published in print and braille, and certification standards are in preparation.

Request items

Staff members responsible for training and proofreading also provide some braille items for other government agencies in the Washington, D.C., area. They transcribe letters from or into braille as needed by members of Congress or the White House. They braille as needed agendas, certificates, and invitations, and fulfill requests for items such as labels for elevators and hotel rooms.

Longer and more complex items such as braille copies of legislation are assigned for volunteer mastering. Government agencies that need many copies of regulations or similar information are assisted by referring them to volunteer groups or braille printing firms.

Research and Development

Press braille study. A system study was launched in November 1979 to analyze current procedures for producing press braille, to consider the effect of new technology, and to propose improved production models. This research is being carried out by Exotech Research and Analysis, Inc., under specifications developed by NLS.

The first phase of the study involved a systems analysis of the four major brailling firms to chart techniques employed and the flow of work. Next, productivity rates, including human as well as technical factors, were considered and cost analysis performed.

The next phase, now underway, is assessment of technology. All four producers have computers but use them in different manners. The study should indicate the best use or uses to increase braille production at lower cost. It should also show areas where new technology could make a difference.

The final phase will be a consideration of alternative production systems. Systems using current technology, those that could be developed with adaptation of technology used in other fields, or those where technology has to be developed will be evaluated.

Cassette braille. The major difficulties with the traditional braille format are the time required for production and the space required for storage. It is almost impossible for a braille reader to develop a home library. Provision of sufficient shelf space is a serious problem even for braille-lending libraries.

Having books coded on cassette tape would solve both these problems, and this technology is currently available. The machines are still being developed to decode the tapes into readable braille.

Readers in four parts of the country are participating in a study of cassette braille, evaluating three different machines: the Digicassette by Elinfa in France, the Braillocord by AID Electronic in Germany, and the VersaBraille by Telesensory Systems, Inc., in California.

The Elinfa and the VersaBraille machines have a 20-character display line; the Braillocord uses a 32-character line. Readers can select from six magazines for testing purposes.

The major thrust of the study is to gain reader reaction to cassette braille as a companion or alternative to paper braille. Readers area also assessing features of the three machines, which differ in size and

Dorinda de Gouvêa Nowill, President of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (WCWB) examines NLS's samples of the new Japanese process for raised-relief illustrations. Mrs. Nowill met in May with NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke, chairman of WCWB's Subcommittee on Library Services, to discuss plans for a June meeting of representatives from Spanish-speaking countries on service to Spanish-language users. Mrs. Nowill, who lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil, specializes in teaching blind people and has been an officer of WCWB for many years.

portability, location and type of control switches, and indexing capacity.

Another tape-activated machine, the Rose Reader, is under consideration by the Office of Special Education, U.S. Department of Education. Expectations are that this machine may be able to produce a full page of braille. NLS has been apprised of all developments, and is interested in the potential for multiline cassette braille. Reliability of such an extensive display is a difficult problem.

Other studies. Three other studies related to braille are in the active or planning stages: braille-production possibilities of the Kurzweil reader, a Grade I magazine survey, and assessing the material used for thermoform pages.

The Kurzweil reader has been successfully adapted to produce braille in place of speech. The equipment is complex and its use requires a great deal of training and practice. Present plans are to incorporate further research into a broad-based project utilizing other technology.

More than 200 readers are participating in a study to determine interest in Grade I, or uncontracted, braille. They are receiving *National Geographic* or *Children's Digest* in Grade I braille and providing feedback on acceptability or usefulness of this format.

Some readers have reported a sensitivity to the paper used for thermoforming handcopied braille. NLS will work with those who have this problem to isolate the ingredient responsible and if possible change the composition of the plastic.

In addition, NLS will study a newly developed Japanese process that can reproduce illustrations in tactile form. The height of the illustrations depends on the intensity of the print image: white reproduces flat, black is up to three times the height of a braille dot, and grays are somewhere in between. The process may have numerous applications to braille books and magazines that contain maps, charts, and diagrams. The two-machine photocopying unit has been ordered from Japan for evaluation.

"We're on the threshold of big change. There are lots of alternatives. But we'll have to live with our decisions about solutions for the next couple of decades, and we're moving carefully and giving all options a lot of study."—Henry Paris, Chief, Materials Development Division.

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News

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NLS produces new voice-indexed book

A voice-indexed cookbook, *Cooking for Myself* (RC 14999) by Mirelle Beaulieu, was produced this summer. This is the second voice-indexed cassette book produced by NLS.

Voice indexing is a technique that provides easy access to reference material. Key words are audible as normal speech in the fast-forward mode. The tape is then stopped and played at regular speed to hear the entire entry. The cookbook has been indexed by section and recipe.

NLS first tested voice indexing in 1979 with *Access National Parks: A Guide for Handicapped Visitors* (RC 12640), published by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Encouraged by reader response, NLS made plans to solicit further reader reaction through production of a different kind of material. The cookbook comes with an instruction cassette in the same container explaining how to use voice indexing to find recipes quickly.

Long-range plans are to record a voice-indexed version of the *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*. The first section, containing words that begin with the letter *a*, is currently in production. Several methods of narrating the information are being tried to determine the most effective format.

It is estimated that the recorded dictionary will consist of more than fifty cassettes, require special packaging, and take up to two years to narrate and produce.

Author Eloise Greenfield visited NLS this summer to record her first book of children's poetry Honey, I Love. *The sixteen poems are love tributes to daily life—listening to music, riding on a train, playing with a friend. They reflect her aim "to give words to love, to grow on." Ms. Greenfield has won many awards for her biographies and fiction for children.*

XESS System

Pilot project for automated book exchange

XESS System is a pilot project for an automated book exchange of excess materials that will reduce both time and effort in routing excess copies of books.

Past experience has demonstrated that a substantial proportion of books excess to one library are needed by another library. Use of the new system will help libraries update their collections and simplify procedures.

Last year, under the old system, network librarians had to review more than one hundred separate excess lists totalling 1,751 pages to determine if they needed books that were excess at another library. Only book numbers were given on the lists.

LC 19.13:

The new system is being developed by the NLS Network Development Office with the help of Allen Deschere, NLS Automated Systems Coordinator. When it is tested in operation, a network librarian will generally receive only four excess lists a year, one for each region. The books will be listed in order by media and book number, with a brief title and author entry for each. Duplicate entries will be consolidated.

The project is currently being tested with libraries of the Western Region. All libraries in that region agreed to cooperate by sending their lists of excess books by the end of March. The lists were put into machine-readable form for compilation into a single list, in book number order.

Lists were then sent to all network libraries with a request to list books and quantities wanted. When these lists are returned, the results are keypunched and processed by computer to match requests against the books offered by the Western Region.

When there are fewer copies available than those requested, the computer will make decisions on a priority basis. The products of this matching will be addressed mailing labels in book number order to make it easy for the offering library to send books to the requesting library. Offering libraries can then simply pull books requested from their shelves, insert the mailing labels, and forward books.

Access for patrons

A summary of the 1979 NLS annual survey of network libraries shows that the networks are meeting both the ALA standards and Public Law 93-112 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973) on access for handicapped people to building facilities. A total of 143 or 90.5 percent of the network libraries responded to the survey.

Eighty-five percent of the libraries surveyed have ramps or flush sidewalks to at least one entrance, 47.5 percent have elevators large enough for wheelchairs, and 89.5 percent have doorways wide enough for a wheelchair. Fifty-one percent have restroom faciliites for people in wheelchairs.

There are handrails for all stairways in 54.5 percent of the buildings and service desks convenient for handicapped patrons in 60.1 percent of the libraries. Reserved parking is available for handicapped drivers at 53 percent of the network libraries. In only 21 percent of the libraries, however, are there signs in braille or raised markings at floor level.

Prison braillers honored by Maryland governor

July 1 was declared Baltimore Braille Association Day in the state of Maryland by Maryland Governor Harry Hughes, and official ceremonies marked the event at the Maryland State Penitentiary. The governor's Chief Legislative Assistant, Judson Garret, read the declaration, and brought high praises for the association's members.

On hand to present a certificate of appreciation from the Library of Congress was Mary Levering, Chief of the Network

Mary Levering, NLS Network Division Chief, addresses the BBA and presents a certificate of appreciation.

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to the attention of Publication and
Media Section.

NLS staff members discuss braille production and cassette repair with BBA members after BBA Association Day ceremonies. **Above** *BBA President Donald Blackwell with Samuel Bryant, Head of NLS Materials Management Unit.* **Above right** *John Reiner, NLS Equipment and Materials Coordinator, with BBA member Charles Bernadou.* **At right** *Robert Kost, Head of NLS Quality Assurance Section, and Priscilla Hayden, Assistant Head of NLS Production Control Section, with Frederick Hutchinson, BBA Production Manager.*

Division of NLS. The certificate cited the group's outstanding contribution to the NLS program. Since October 1979 BBA has produced more than 500,000 braille pages and repaired nearly 500 cassette machines.

The BBA was founded by inmates of the Maryland Penitentiary near Baltimore and is operated by those men, along with a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from the outside community. Their primary objectives are to provide marketable vocational skills to inmates and to provide a variety of materials for blind and physically handicapped people and other special groups.

Others participating in the gathering included Tom Hampton, from the office of the mayor of Baltimore; George Collins, Warden of the prison; Charlotte Nesbitt, Assistant Warden; and John Wesley, from the Baltimore mayor's Office of Manpower Resources.

Acknowledgements on BBA Day included a letter from the Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Maryland congresswoman.

Cooperative cataloging broadens lending

Since September 1978, regional libraries and NLS have been working together on a cooperative cataloging program to list network-produced books in the NLS microfiche catalog. Regional libraries and one subregional, Fairfax County in Virginia, have voluntarily listed 801 titles that they are willing to lend to other libraries, patrons, or both.

The program will give networks libraries access to network and volunteer-produced books by way of title, author, Dewey Decimal number, subject, and narrator. Titles are incorporated into the microfiche catalog that lists all books available through NLS. The books are lent as cassettes, bound braille, and open-reel recorded masters.

Cooperating libraries have different lending requirements; some lend only to other network libraries, some only to patrons, and some to both. The lending requirements of each cooperating library are listed in the front of the microfiche catalog.

The types of books lent vary with the library. The Lansing, Michigan, regional library has submitted textbooks and books in Finnish. Texas produces foreign-language books, frequently in Spanish. The catalog makes available a broad range of regional interest titles, particularly books with a New England flavor contributed by Maine and the Texians and the Texians series cataloged by the Texas regional library.

Since March of this year a number of libraries have joined in the program, bringing the total of participating libraries to twenty-three. Patricia Hatlen, Senior Cataloger, has "been impressed by the amount of work the libraries are willing to do to make the catalog a success. In the long run, we are hoping that this project will simplify bibliographic control and interlibrary loan for the participating libraries, and save everyone needless duplication."

Reader-advisors

A personal service

Reader-advisors at five of the 161 network libraries were interviewed for this article:
Arizona, *Sandra Anfang*
Kentucky, *Wendy Hatfield*
Louisiana, *Pamela Arceneaux*
Los Angeles, *Jerry Pierce*
South Carolina, *Frances Case*

Along with requests for books or reports of broken machines, reader-advisors may hear—all in a day's work—a weather report from a remote Kentucky community, a run-down on someone's latest family doings, or a summary of personal problems.

Reader-advisors at network libraries play a key role in serving patrons. They help readers select books and make sure that readers get books that they want and need. They try to maintain a personal touch via the mail and the telephone.

"I may do a little social work now and then, listening to personal problems and chatting with people," says Sandra Anfang, reader-advisor at the Arizona regional library in Phoenix. "I get to know some of my readers very well."

Other reader-advisors report similar experiences. They try to provide personal service to patrons they may never meet face-to-face.

"Readers get to be our friends," says Frances Case, who has worked at the job for six years at the South Carolina state library at Columbia. "We provide a special kind of service. Our library is a public library for people of all ages who can't handle printed material."

In providing reading assistance to about 2,000 of the South Carolina library's 7,500 patrons, Ms. Case must keep track of what her readers have read and what they prefer to read. Many patrons like to order specific books. Others, however, want the reader-advisor to make the selections.

Frances Case checks a reader's book list and helps with a telephone request.

"What people read is very personal," Ms. Case explains. "We prefer to be told what they want. However, we have a number of people who say, 'You know what's available and what I like; you do the choosing.' "

Adult readers

The largest category of patrons consists of elderly people. These readers tend to prefer mysteries, westerns, and religious books, says Wendy Hatfield, reader-advisor at the Kentucky regional library in Frankfort. Current bestsellers and books on which movies and TV programs are based also are in great demand among readers of all ages.

Many of Ms. Anfang's readers ask for romances. The current hit, she says, is *Spring of the Tiger*, by Victoria Holt. Ms. Case reports the Bible as the all-time favorite.

Many adult readers will read twenty to forty books per month, although three to five is a more usual number. Some veteran patrons have read thousands of books.

Advisors generally are able to fill requests for leisure reading. However, many readers are offended by explicit sexual language that appears in much modern fiction. "Sometimes I have trouble finding materials that satisfy these readers in terms of content, but which don't offend them in terms of language," Ms. Case says.

Younger readers

Though Ms. Case's readership leans toward older people, high school and college students also use the service extensively. Students often send in their entire reading lists for the school year, she explains.

One satisfied college student sent Ms. Case a bouquet of flowers. Many patrons send cards and letters of thanks for the service they receive.

Noemie DeRouen, assistant librarian at the Louisiana state library in Baton Rouge, reports that 401 of the library's 4,583 patrons are juveniles. Reader-advisor Pamela Arceneaux serves this youthful readership, as well as retarded adults who

read at a child's level. Ms. Arceneaux also works with schools and with hospitals in helping serve the reading needs of blind and physically disabled children.

She says she encounters situations similar to those of reader-advisors who work with adults. Ms. Arceneaux sends out 500 to 700 books per month to the young readers, ages one and a half to fourteen. "I select books on the basis of age, sex, reading level, and interest," she says.

Young readers tend to want mysteries and books about animals, she says. "They still love the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew." The Hardy Boys TV series has sparked renewed interest in the Hardy Boys books.

The most recent Star Wars movie, *The Empire Strikes Back*, generated a large demand for the book version before it was even in print, several reader-advisors reported.

Ms. Arceneaux coordinates a summer reading program for young people. Each child who reads a certain number of books receives a certificate and button. This summer was the eleventh year of the program. Last summer three books were required for a certificate. One boy with wide reading tastes consumed sixty-four books during the program.

Pamela Arceneaux

Photos of Wendy Hatfield and Jerry Pierce were not available.

Organizing the service

The reader-advisors interviewed have professional librarian credentials, usually a master's degree in library science. They work in libraries that have at least two other reader-advisors on the staff.

Some of the libraries divide the work load alphabetically. Ms. Hatfield, for example, serves readers whose last names start with the letters P through Z. The Louisiana library divides the work load among reference, adults, and children. And the regional library that serves ten counties in Southern California has installed a computer to assist in matching reader interests with books available. Volunteers handle specific requests, submitted by about 60 percent of the readers.

Computerization allows a reader-advisor like Jerry Pierce more time for service rather than clerical tasks. Mr. Pierce says that the work load at the Braille Institute Library in Los Angeles was becoming too large to handle efficiently without the help of computers. The library expects its readership to grow to considerably more than today's 16,000 patrons in the next five years.

Sandra Anfang, surrounded by files and reference material, sifts through book cards as she consults with a patron.

Until computerization, Mr. Pierce served patrons from Cle to Gog. Now he works with all patrons. He handles twenty-five to thirty calls a day. "I trouble shoot and handle problems that arise. I try to find the cause when people aren't happy."

The reader-advisors interviewed work in essentially the same manner. They keep a folder for each of their readers, with the reader's age, sex, address, phone number, and reading preferences, along with a book list on which titles are crossed out when the reader is sent the book. Mr. Pierce in Los Angeles uses a video terminal to locate information previously recorded in a folder.

Service isn't just a simple matter of receiving requests and mailing out books. Ms. Hatfield keeps track of her readers when they go on vacation or spend the winter in Florida. She makes sure they continue getting books at their temporary residences.

Readers who specify the books they want receive books as they send in orders. Others may receive a given number of books weekly or monthly. Ms. Anfang sends out books weekly. She mails books to a different portion of her readership each day to spread the work load. Some reader-advisors send out books only when the reader returns the previous mailing.

The reader-advisors find their jobs very satisfying. "I know the people I'm serving really appreciate what I do," Ms. Hatfield says.

Network exchange

Indiana. The Fort Wayne subregional library is moving to a newly constructed wing, on the first floor where it will be more easily accessible. The new facilities will include a reading-room area with machines and headphones.

Kentucky. The Louisville subregional library is providing interested patrons with television schedules on cassette. The five Louisville stations send their schedules to the library two to three weeks ahead of broadcast time. Schedules are recorded by station for the entire week, and the recording takes about twenty minutes to play. Readers return one cassette to get the next one.

Alabama. The Spring-Summer edition of the library's newsletter, *WhAT'S LINE*, contained a "word maze," an acrostic where words about summer activities could be located running up, down, across, or diagonally. A thermoform copy of the same puzzle was inserted for braille readers.

California. A book by a patron of the regional library at Los Angeles has been recorded for the NLS collection. *Follow My Leader* (RC 12868), by James Garfield, was written in 1957. It is the story of a boy who becomes blind but resumes a normal life with the help of his guide dog, Leader, and friends who develop a secret code in braille. Mr. Garfield, who lost his sight in 1940, is now ninety-seven.

Illinois. Mary Lou Kampworth and Beverly Sanders, librarians at the subregional libraries for the Lewis and Clark Library System and the Kaskaskia Library System, appear every month on an hour-long call-in show on WMRY, the oldest radio station in Illinois. The program is built around a central topic such as sports or humor based on available cassettes and discs, and sometimes uses a guest speaker. This is Ms. Kampworth's fourth year of participation in the five-year-old program.

New Jersey. Construction plans have been approved for a new facility to house the regional library and the Records Storage Center of the State Library. The one-story building, scheduled for occupancy in December 1981, will offer in-house services to patrons for the first time. There will be a large reading and browsing area, a sculpture garden, an area to display aids and appliances for independent living, and an area for the display of art by and for handicapped individuals.

Florida. Inmates at Brevard Correctional Institution, a facility for offenders under twenty-five, have logged more than 7,000 volunteer hours of recording for the regional library in Daytona Beach since the program began in August 1978. The program uses a full-time crew of six—two narrators, two monitors, and two reviewers—using equipment supplied by the Division of Blind Services. They record magazines, textbooks, novels, and special-request projects.

Use of volunteers at the Florida regional library increased 12.7 percent in the fiscal year that ended June 30, from 38,300.75 hours to 43,176 hours. Librarian Donald Weber's figures show that if people performing these services had been paid the minimum wage (without benefits), the cost would have been $133,845.60.

New York. The regional library in New York City is beginning a program to record books in Spanish, Chinese, Italian, and other foreign languages, as well as materials on black heritage and New York City history.

Staff changes. Rodene Green has resigned as regional librarian in **Nebraska** to relocate with her husband in Arizona. Linda Field is acting librarian.

Judy Lastrapes retired in June as regional librarian for **Louisiana.** Mrs. Lastrapes was with the state library for twenty-four years, ten of them as head of the regional library. Lois Bebout has been appointed Coordinator of Special Services for the state library and will also serve as regional librarian.

Marge Foley is now on the staff of the **Florida** regional library as head of the Field Services Section.

Barbara Goral is now regional librarian in **Wayne County, Michigan.**

Bob Britton has resigned as regional librarian in **Maine** to accept a position with the Portland Public Library.

Dale Jeske became regional librarian in **Connecticut** on July 1.

Several participants of the IFLA Round Table meeting visited NLS following the Helen Keller Centennial Congress. Shown discussing the current-model cassette player are Rainer Witte, West Germany; NLS Director Frank Kurt Cylke; D. Susnjic and Antun Lastric, Yugoslavia; Madeline Cohen, Recording for the Blind; George Ankoba, Ghana; and Jergen Hertlein, West Germany.

International briefs

International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA). The Round Table of Libraries for the Blind met in Boston June 26 and 27. Committee reports were given on large print (Paulli Thomsen, Denmark); copyright (Francoise Hebert, Canada); bio-bibliographical dictionary (Frank Kurt Cylke, USA); postal and customs regulations (Henry Fidder, Netherlands); developing countries (George Ankobia, Ghana); computerized book lending (Theo van der Greft, Netherlands); braille and recording technology (Rainer Witte, West Germany); and new technology (Geoff Nelson, USA, Pedro Zurita, Spain, Carl Roth, Sweden, and Eric Bolter, Great Britain).

Discussions also included recent or upcoming seminars on Latin America, Africa, Malaysia, and Manila. Plans were developed for the Round Table meeting at the 1981 IFLA meeting in Leipzig, East Germany, including committee activities to be pursued and suggestions for four theme papers for publication.

World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (WCWB). The Subcommittee on Library Services and NLS sponsored a two-day meeting in June on library service to blind and physically handicapped individuals in Latin America. Topics addressed included: audio production and equipment, braille production, gift and exchange, postal and custom regulations, and service patterns.

A resolution was adopted calling for the development of a Central Production Facility for recorded materials, half in Spanish and half in Portuguese, to be located in Brazil. Production of 100 titles a year would begin in January 1982. A second proposal was to encourage all WCWB member countries to establish braille authorities.

These proposals were discussed at an informal meeting of the WCWB's Committee on Cultural Affairs, the parent committee for the Subcommittee on Library Services, held in conjunction with the Helen Keller Centennial Congress. The group also considered standardization of talking-book formats and exchange procedures.

United Kingdom. *In Touch*, a quarterly bulletin of aids and services for blind and partially sighted people, reports the publication of a story book with large print, tactile pictures, and uncontracted braille, designed to be enjoyed by blind and sighted children together. Red Street Riddles, by Virginia Allen Jensen, is published by Collins and costs £ 3.95 (about $9.25 depending on the exchange rate).

In Touch is free to blind or partially sighted people. Send up to four self-addressed, stamped envelopes to *In Touch*, BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA, and indicate which issues are required.

Nigeria. A Danish expert from the International Council for Education of the Visually Handicapped (ICEVH) spent two months at the Nakam Memorial Secondary School for the Blind in Barakin Ladi to assist with their integrated program and to help maintain and repair braille writing equipment.

India. ICEVH has donated a Marburg Braille Duplicator to the Red Cross School for the Blind in Burhampur to provide the blind children of Orissa with text books in the Oriya language.

Sweden. The Swedish Federation of the Visually Handicapped has published *Establishing Braille Production Facilities in Developing Countries: A Handbook* by Barry Hampshire. The handbook consists of four sections including an introduction, general aspects, establishing braille production facilities, and running a braille production facility. For further information write to Swedish Federation of the Visually Handicapped, S-122 88 Enskede, Sweden.

Nonautomated circulation manual prepared

A manual describing a circulation system for nonautomated libraries will be available for network libraries from NLS this fall, and will be announced when ready for distribution. Developed by Battelle Columbus Laboratories in Columbus, Ohio, the system addresses the American Library Association's *Standards of Service for the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.*

To prepare the manual, Battelle first solicited information from all network libraries concerning existing circulation systems. After studying these results, they visited regional libraries in Rhode Island, Mississippi, Iowa, and Montana, and subregional libraries in Fairfax County and Alexandria, Virginia, and LaGrange Park, Illinois, to get experience with several different systems already in use.

Battelle then designed a model circulation system and prepared a procedures manual for it. This was tested in four nonautomated libraries: New Hampshire; Wichita, Kansas; Arkansas; and San Francisco; as well as the NLS Music Section and Network Services Section.

Each of the libraries selected 100 active readers and used the model procedures for a minimum of one month. Battelle also sent draft copies of the manual to libraries that requested to review it.

The nonautomated circulation system has three basic sets of procedures: establishing or changing a patron's service, daily circulation and support activities, and temporary service and maintenance activities.

Libraries can choose to follow all the procedures, or to select ones that meet their needs. Network libraries of any size can set up and operate the circulation system.

National Library Service
for the Blind and
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DEPOSITORY 376

Braille production center established at AFB

A central facility for testing innovations in braille production has been established at the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) in New York City, with major equipment to be supplied and projects determined by NLS. An agreement signed in September between NLS and AFB set this project in motion.

The five-year agreement specifies that NLS will provide new high-technology equipment and contract for short runs of high-demand, low-volume braille materials. AFB will provide the space, personnel, and materials to operate and maintain the facility. Equipment will remain the property of NLS.

James G. Hardy O.B.E., Vice-President of the Royal Blind Society of New South Wales, examines the NLS prototype combination record player/cassette machine with Henry Paris, Chief, Materials Development Division, and Frank Kurt Cylke, Director. Mr. Hardy visited NLS to discuss current technological developments following his participation as skipper of Australia *in the twenty-fourth challenge for the America's Cup 12-meter yacht match race held off Newport, Rhode Island.*

The purpose is to provide a production center and developmental laboratory to examine current and new technology in relation to computer production of high-grade braille. "Computer technology will drastically alter braille production in the next decade," says Henry Paris, Chief of the NLS Material Development Division. "There are a lot of different systems to explore, with several possible input devices to interface with the computer, and different possible products."

He cites as products, improved mechanisms for production of paper braille and cassette tapes for paperless braille machines. Input possibilities include manual keyboarding, compositors tapes, and print-scanning devices such as the Kurzweil Data Entry Machine.

Initial equipment will include the Kurzweil machine, which uses an optical scanner to read print. The computer uses a special program, the Duxbury Braille Translator, to convert the print to contracted braille on a magnetic tape that can be used to drive an embossing device or a paperless braille machine. The LED 120 braille embosser, currently standard equipment for braille production, will also be provided.

The first major new project will be testing of a high-speed embosser to be developed elsewhere. Plans also include testing more efficient methods of using compositors tape.

The AFB facility will not be used for regular production of braille books and magazines, whose tight production schedules do not easily allow for experimentation with different techniques. Materials produced will be library-related items, such as government agency documents, request items, or reference material.

ALA president-elect proposes new program

Elizabeth "Betty" Stone, President-elect of the American Library Association (ALA) and a long-time advocate for services to

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Betty Stone

blind and physically handicapped individuals, has proposed a four-point program for ALA action. The recommendations cover international cooperation, dissemination of information about technological advances, training for librarians, and provision of braille copies of ALA papers and agendas.

These actions would further the working relationship between ALA and NLS that has existed for many years in providing improved library services for blind and physically handicapped people. In 1979 ALA's *Standards of Service for the Library of Congress Network for the Blind and Physically Handicapped* was published, with NLS cooperation and participation.

Specifics of Ms. Stone's proposals include:

- Cooperation with the International Federation of Library Associations and the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (WCWB) in participating in the International Year of the Disabled (1981). ALA should help to publicize information about cassettes in Spanish and Portuguese planned for production by WCWB for North and South American readers.
- One issue of *Library Technology Reports* should be devoted to evaluative studies of mechanical aids for disabled persons that are particularly recommended for libraries. The Catholic University has a computerized list of such aids that is accessible to libraries through BRS.
- ALA should sponsor a panel or symposium called "What Should Curriculum in Library Schools Be in Order for New Professionals to Better Serve the Disabled?" This might be a topic at the 1981 annual conference.
- ALA should provide advance braille copies of major ALA agenda and papers for the midwinter and annual conferences. These could be produced in cooperation with NLS.

Ms. Stone will take office as ALA president at the annual conference in June. She has been head of the graduate department of library and information science of The Catholic University since 1972 and a library educator for nearly twenty years. She has served on the President's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped for the past eight years.

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Network Consultant appointed

Thomas Martin was appointed Network Consultant for NLS on August 18. Dr. Martin received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967 from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and his Ph.D at St. Andrews in Scotland. He did post-doctoral work for the American Council of Learned Societies and later received a masters degree in library science from Columbia University.

He has held posts at Hayes Library of Pace University at White Plains, Columbia University Library, and the Library of Congress, where he entered federal service in 1977.

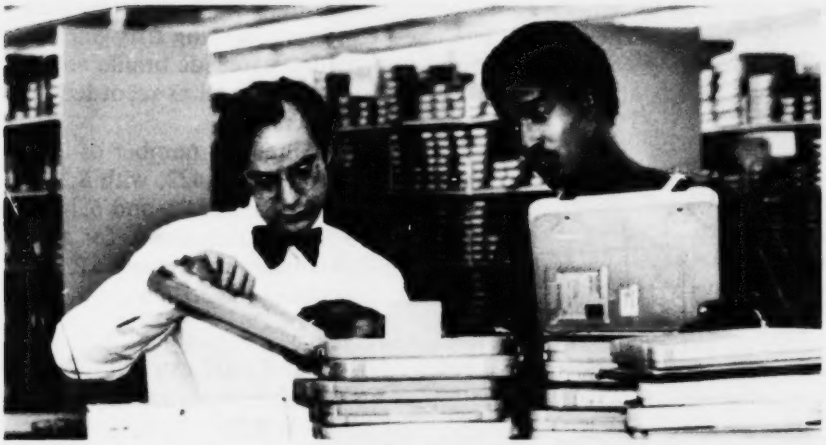
His duties as Network Consultant include coordination of the NLS consultant program, with personal responsibility for consultant activities among network libraries in the Northern and Southern regions. He will also coordinate a proposed Network Advisory Committee.

Network library orients NLS staff member

Orientation sessions at NLS are not rare; they are held several times a year so that network personnel can become familiar with NLS operations. In a reversal of the usual situation, Thomas Martin, NLS Network Consultant, spent a week in September outside NLS being oriented to network procedures. It was the first of several such orientations, with others scheduled for Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Dr. Martin worked as a floating staff member at the Alabama regional library, following through the entire distribution process of books and equipment. He learned by participation as well as by observation and discussion.

Monday. Regional Librarian Miriam Pace reviewed the history, policies, and procedures of the library and the many processes involved in delivering patron service. He had a tour of the building, met staff of the state library as well as those serving blind and physically handicapped



Tom Martin, NLS Network Consultant, and Daryl Markette, Warehouseman, inspect disc books before sending them to readers.

patrons, and learned of the related functions. He worked in the mail room, sorting returned books and filing cards. He worked with the machine and magazine clerks, learning how machines and accessories move from the time they are received, and how nationally and locally produced magazines are handled.

Tuesday. He checked in new books according to procedures, shelved them, assigned classification numbers, and put the book information into the computer. He learned about the automation system—its development, plans for the future, and use in other state library functions.

Wednesday. He worked as a reader-advisor, using a computer terminal to fill patron requests, select books according to the reader-interest profile, and print labels automatically. He reviewed applications, talked with patrons, and initiated services, cancelled services, and transferred patrons.

Thursday. He participated in a book-selection meeting where a determination was made on increasing the number of books needed to serve a growing clientele. He narrated a Damon Runyon story onto open-reel tape, reviewed it, duplicated it onto cassette, labeled it, and boxed it. He learned how the braille librarian serves patrons with books, individual brailling requests, and thermoforming.

Friday. He worked with circulating material, checking the returned books for completeness, rewinding tapes, and shelving books. He participated in checking returned machines for repair and reissue.

Above top. *Tom Martin puts newly received books into computer system.* **Bottom.** *He pulls books for circulation with Braille Librarian Jimmy Gibson.*

Network exchange

Maryland. The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped has more than 500 deposit collections throughout the state, located in nursing homes, schools, hospitals, and public and private agencies. The most recent service is located in the Wicomico County Free Library in Salisbury. It will provide talking books and large-print books through local libraries in the eight counties of the Eastern Shore area. Operating funds were obtained through a Title 1 grant of the Library Services and Construction Act.

Missouri. Attendees of the Missouri Library Association's annual conference visited Wolfner Memorial Library's open house on September 25. Decals with the words *The Eye Opener* were given out to be attached to name tags, and aroused much curiosity. The *Eye Opener* is the newly named quarterly newsletter, distributed to Wolfner readers, agencies, and regional libraries. Highlights of the open house included demonstrations of the automated circulation system and tours of the departments.

Kansas. The Kansas City subregional library will close as of December 31, and service for the five counties involved will be assumed by the regional library in Topeka. To insure a smooth transition, patron records have been transferred monthly by county beginning in September.

Georgia. Special Audiences, Inc., a nonprofit organization promoting greater availability of art and cultural events for handicapped people, has organized a directory of Atlanta consumers to function as a reference guide for art organizations in making their programs and facilities accessible. A notice in the regional library newsletter *Earfull* resulted in half a dozen patrons to serve as consultants. The library has also assisted patrons interested in the arts by providing braille program notes for operas.

A similar advisory panel, the Athens Access Group, meets four times a year to advise arts groups in Athens on how to

make programs more accessible and more attractive to handicapped people. The subregional library's newsletter *Insight* keeps patrons informed about activities and opportunities to serve.

Carl Beery

Illinois. The Illinois Library Association has awarded the De Lafayette Reid Award to Carl Beery, Consultant for the Blind and Physically Handicapped for the Suburban and North Suburban Library Systems. The two systems, in cooperation with the Suburban Audio Visual Service, provide braille and talking-book services in 121 Chicago suburbs.

The award includes funding for the creation of "A Locator of Resources in Illinois Available to Librarians for Implementing Library Services for the Handicapped." It is presented annually to an Illinois librarian to promote individual growth and to stimulate imaginative projects.

Midlands. Eunice Lovejoy of the Ohio State Library has replaced Robert Ensley as chairperson for the Midlands Region. Mr. Ensley is currently devoting full time to automation projects at the Illinois State Library. His duties as consultant to the Illinois State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped have been assumed by Margaret Collins.

Arizona. An addition to the Arizona State Library will house Recording for the Blind and Radio Reading Services. The regional library will benefit by an additional 2,000 feet of space for shelving and other activities.

Service to Hoosiers

Indiana regional library/ subregional network

Material for this article was furnished by Barney McEwen, Indiana Regional Librarian; Bob Logsdon, Reference Librarian, and Carol Horrell, Project Director—Indiana History Project.

Blind and physically handicapped patrons in Indiana receive library service through the Indiana State Library's Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and five subregional libraries. The regional library has been in operation since 1934 and the subregional system since 1968. The five subregional libraries, whose service areas range from five to eleven counties, provide recorded library material to their patrons. The regional library, serving fifty-one counties, provides statewide braille and large-print services as well as recorded material to its users.

At the end of June the number of readers served totaled 14,422, with 8,311 served by the regional library and 6,111 by subregionals. Annual circulation for all eligible Hoosiers is approximately 472,000 including direct-mail magazines.

Reader services

Reader advisors and staff work closely with patrons through correspondence and the use of an IN-WATS telephone line. They handle book and magazine requests, answer questions from patrons regarding service, provide assistance on reading material available, and maintain circulation and history files of patrons. At present a manual circulation system is used at the regional and subregional libraries.

Reference services

The regional library maintains a reference collection of material in print to assist staff in answering questions on library service for blind and physically handicapped people and related subjects. Patrons, either those served directly or those served by subregionals, are encouraged to contact the library for assistance. Many requests deal with appliances and where to obtain them, information on handicapping conditions, and addresses of agencies serving the handicapped population. Requests are also received concerning the availability of certain titles, particularly textbooks.

Iona Wise, Reader Advisor, selects books for patrons.

Jim Frech, Stores Clerk, in compact-shelving area

All of the reference collection is included on the OCLC data base and provides libraries and their patrons with information on what is available at the regional library. In addition, two on-line bibliographic services, Lockheed and SDC Bibliographic Data Bases, are housed in the Reference Division of the Indiana State Library and may be used by the staff of the regional library. NLS resources are also utilized.

Facilities

In late 1976 the regional library moved into a new addition to the Indiana State Library building. This move provided a reading area for patrons, additional space for staff, and compact shelving in the main stacks. The compact shelving is operated by an electrical system but can be moved manually by ratchet handle if power fails. This system converts wasted aisles into increased shelving space and adds about 50 percent more capacity than conventional shelving.

Two special equipment aids serve the needs of patrons and handicapped staff: the Visualtek, for visually handicapped people, which enlarges print material up to sixty times its normal size, and an Optacon, a tactile reading machine for blind patrons and staff.

Barney McEwen, Regional Librarian

Subregional network

The five subregional libraries are located in the public libraries of Bartholomew County, Elkhart, Evansville-Vanderburgh County, Allen County-Fort Wayne, and Lake County. Their relationship to the regional library is similar to that of the regional to both the multistate center and NLS. Regional services include bibliographic support, coordination, communication, tape duplication, consultant services, and a back-up for older and less used titles in the book collection. Funds for the subregional network come from Library Services and Construction Act monies and local support of the public libraries in which the subregionals are located.

Public education campaign

A substantial expansion in readership has resulted from the regional, subregional, and public libraries' intensive public education efforts in the last five years. This effort, in conjunction with the NLS public service announcement (PSA) campaign, has brought a continued increase in readership. The Indiana regional was one of the eight libraries that participated in the first PSA effort in 1978-79, and the Evansville subregional participated the following year. Three subregionals will be participating this year.

An interesting factor that resulted from the regional library's participation is that new reader growth did not decline after use of PSAs ended. The rate of growth has never gone back to what it was before the campaign.

Indiana History Project

The Indiana regional library has always had requests from patrons for material on Indiana history. Now, thanks to the efforts of the Indiana Historical Society in cooperation with the regional library, its readers have access to recorded books and information on the subject as well as to books by Indiana authors. The Indiana History Project, which started in 1977, currently offers 150 fiction and nonfiction titles plus issues of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. This program is a memorial to the late Eli Lilly, prominent local pharmaceutical manufacturer, who was a user of the regional library's services in his later years.

Materials for this project have been produced by volunteers using the recording studio located in the regional library. However, due to the demand for additional material on Indiana history, the project is being expanded. The Western Electric Telephone Pioneers of America, Shadeland Chapter (Indianapolis), is currently equipping their own recording studio and recruiting chapter members to assist in the production of project materials.

International briefs

United Kingdom. The British National Uniform Type Committee, established in 1916 as the ultimate legislative authority on questions of braille coding and layout practice in the United Kingdom, has changed its name to the Braille Authority for the United Kingdom.

E. J. Venn has been appointed director-general of the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) to succeed Eric T. Boulter, who retired at the end of August. Mr. Venn has been deputy director-general since 1972, after thirteen years as head of the RNIB Services to the Blind Department.

A special service for residents of the Kent area is provided by inmates at HM Prison, Maidstone, who make tactile mobility maps with raised symbols for roads and structures. Maps are registered with A. F. Tatham, National Register of Maps for the Visually Handicapped, Map Room, Cheshan Building, King's College, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS.

Iceland. The Association of the Blind, established in 1939, sponsors a braille library, a talking-book center, and accommodations for businesses owned by blind and physically handicapped individuals, who number approximately 500 among the 225,000 inhabitants. Most Association funds come from the sale of lottery tickets, with some support by other organizations. The government pays for braille books and for distribution of material recorded by volunteers. Volunteers also read texts on the Icelandic State Radio.

Wales. A talking-book service spearheaded by two young men in Bangor, North Wales, and sponsored by the Welsh Books Council, has produced more than 150 titles in Welsh since its inception in July 1979. The service employs eight people, two of them visually handicapped. The British Talking-Book Service for the Blind also has available forty titles in Welsh, recorded in cooperation with the North Wales Society for the Blind.

Malaysia. The University of Malaya Library is supplying text for blind students in a combination of recorded and braille formats. Easily read portions are recorded, while diagrams, maps, tables, and complicated equations are brailled. Special emphasis is given to local materials and native speakers are taping materials in the national language. Most recording is done in English by the British Women's Association of Malaysia.

Denmark. A 1976 Danish revision of the international braille music code is on sale at Statens Bibliotek og Trykkeri for Blinde, Ronnegade 1, 2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark. The price is approximately $16, U.S. currency.

The manual is in contracted Danish braille. A list in braille of Danish literary contractions, the full spelling of each word, and English equivalents has been made by Georgia Griffith, Rear 4 Furry Court, Lancaster, OH 43130, USA. Copies may be obtained free of charge.

An article discussing differences from the international code appeared in the NLS publication the *Musical Mainstream*, May-June 1980. Copies are available from the Music Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542, USA.

South Africa. Tape Aids for the Blind has been recording books for twenty-three years and has produced a total of 3,560 titles. The agency provides cassette tapes in English, Afrikaans, Hindi, Tamil, and Islamic to 2,400 library members of all races. The only requirement for membership is a medical certificate stating that the individual is permanently, partially, or intermittently deprived of sight or temporarily or permanently so disabled as to make reading impossible or undesirable. The agency is based in Durban, with branches in eight other cities. The Johannesburg studio produces two magazines in English and one in Afrikaans.

World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (WCWB). The WCWB newsletter is available in recorded versions in Spanish or in English. For Spanish, write to Don Jesus Albeniz, Director, ONCE, Calle de Jose Ortega y Gasset 18, Madrid 6, Spain. For English, write to SRF, S-122, 88 Enskade, Sweden.

Public education impact

Readership goes up

Network libraries using radio and TV public service announcements (PSAs) report that 59 percent more new readers used the braille and talking-book program during April 1979–March 1980 than the previous year. According to a recent survey, the fifty-six project participants also report book-circulation increases and say that PSAs are most effective when used in conjunction with other public-education activities such as public library demonstrations and contacts with relevant professionals and community members.

The NLS project was begun in 1978 with eight libraries. The next phase of the project—due to start around January 1, 1981—will include about 90 of the 160 network libraries. At that time radio and TV spots will be used on about 400 TV and 4,000 radio stations across the country, including major markets in New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, and Florida.

New PSAs include both 30-second and 20-second announcements that books and magazines are available on discs, cassettes, and in braille; can be delivered by mail to be used in the home; and are free. Country singer Ronnie Milsap and actor Lorne Green have recorded two of the radio spots.

Storylines for the four new TV spots are:

• **Maureen Callahan** Washington Redskin cheerleader Maureen Callahan is legally blind and leads an active life, which includes reading talking books.

• **Magician** It doesn't take a magician to make disc, cassette, and braille books available to blind and physically handicapped individuals—there's a free library service for all who are eligible.

• **Library at Your Door** Books on cassettes, discs, and in braille are delivered by mail—free.

• **Family** Family activities in the home include "grandfather" using talking books.

English harpsicordist visits Music Section

During an international study-tour, blind harpsichordist John Henry spent August 13 through 15 at NLS for research in the Music Section. The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust awarded Mr. Henry a travelling fellowship this year to investigate the international availability of braille music. His research is aimed at identifying braille music libraries and publishers, establishing contact with these sources, and promoting greater international cooperation.

Musician John Henry uses an Optacon to examine print material. The scanner (in his right hand) picks up the shapes of letters and music symbols that are perceived as vibrations.

Though Mr. Henry has kept in touch with the Music Section for many years, this was his first visit. Mr. Henry grew up in Rochester, New York, and studied music and linguistics in this country. In 1967, his studies in early keyboard music led him to London, where he has taught, lectured, and performed. He has also contributed to Record Review, a radio series broadcast by the BBC.

During his visit to the Music Section, he had an opportunity to study a sampling of the more than 25,000 press and handcopied braille scores from a variety of European sources and from U.S. publishers, including the Library of Congress.

While in North America, Mr. Henry also visited the National Braille Association Braille Book Bank in Rochester, New York; the American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky; and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in Ottawa.

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